

# THE TIMES

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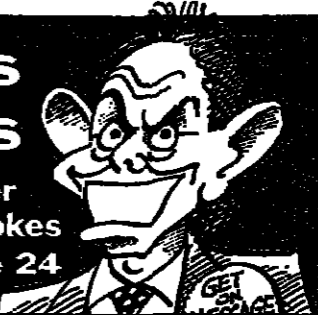
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**30p**  
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## Law lords split 3-2 on extradition

# Straw must decide fate of Pinochet

By JOANNA BALE, PHILIP WEBSTER, RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

JACK STRAW was facing the biggest dilemma of his career last night after the Lords ruled that General Augusto Pinochet's position as a former head of state did not protect him from prosecution for genocide.

The Home Secretary must now decide whether to allow extradition proceedings against the former Chilean dictator — who celebrated his 83rd birthday in a London hospital yesterday — to go ahead.

The decision was thrust into Mr Straw's hands after five law lords voted by 3-2 to overturn the High Court's ruling that the general's status gave him sovereign immunity from arrest and extradition to Spain to face charges in connection with the disappearance of hundreds of Spaniards during his 17-year reign.

The ruling was greeted with wild cheers by hundreds of anti-Pinochet protesters outside Parliament and the hospital where he is convalescing after back surgery. There was also jubilation in Santiago, although that was mixed with angry attacks on British journalists by the general's supporters.

Eduardo Frei, the democratically elected President of Chile who has led the campaign for General Pinochet returned home with full sovereign immunity, reiterated that position yesterday and announced that he was sending his Foreign Minister to London. He also called a meeting



General Pinochet must remain in hospital

of Chile's National Security Council to discuss the case.

The Chilean Ambassador in London said that unless a decision on the matter was made quickly, it would become a "festering wound" in relations between the two countries, while supporters of the general said that the ruling could damage Chile's political stability.

Baroness Thatcher, William Hague and a host of senior Conservatives also called for the general to be allowed to go home. Lady Thatchersaid: "Today's judgment places the decision about what happens to Senator Pinochet back into the hands of the British Government. The senator is old, frail and sick, and on compassionate grounds alone should be allowed to return to Chile. I also remain convinced that the national interests of both Chile and Britain would be best

served by releasing him, which the Home Secretary has it in his power to do."

Senior ministers — who had hoped that the lords' decision would go the other way and let Mr Straw off the hook — were also privately suggesting that the best way out for the Government would be to send him back. The Home Secretary had been ready to make a Commons statement yesterday had lords decided in the general's favour. Now he has until Wednesday — when the general is due to appear in court — to decide whether to let the extradition proceedings take their course.

Mr Straw's difficulty is that overturning the lords — which legal experts say he could do only on compassionate grounds — would be opposed by many Labour MPs and provoke mass protests by groups representing families who suffered under the general's regime.

The strength of feeling was demonstrated yesterday by George Madaraga, a former soldier in the Chilean Army who was outside Parliament. With tears streaming down his face, he said: "I think it's a victory against every murderer in the world. It's a human victory, not a political victory. Every torturer should be brought to justice."

In his judgment, Lord Steyn, who backed the appeal by Spain, said: "The development of international law



Celebrations outside the House of Lords yesterday when the news came through of the Law Lords' judgment on General Pinochet's extradition

since the Second World War justifies the conclusion that by the time of the 1973 coup d'etat, and certainly ever since, international law condemned genocide, torture, hostage taking and crimes against humanity as international crimes deserving of punishment.

"Given this state of international law, it seems to me difficult to maintain that the commission of such high crimes may amount to acts performed in the exercise of the functions of a head of state."

But Lord Lloyd of Berwick argued that almost all revolutionary leaders were guilty of serious crimes, such as murder, and that it was impossible to give state immunity to some

but not to others. He said: "It would be unjustifiable in theory, and unworkable in practice, to impose any restriction on head of state immunity by reference to the number or gravity of the alleged crimes."

General Pinochet learnt of the judgment at the private Grosvenor Hotel in Southgate, north London, where he is under police guard. He was reported to be shattered by the news, having expected to be free to return to Chile on a private plane which has been waiting for him at RAF Brize Norton since his arrest last month.

He is due to make his first public appearance in front of Bow Street magistrates on

Wednesday when he is expected to ask for permission to leave the hospital for a private house or hotel.

By then, Mr Straw should have decided whether to allow the extradition request to proceed and to that end, lawyers for the general and the Crown Prosecution Service have been asked to make representations to his office by Monday.

If he did decide to allow the case to go ahead, he would almost certainly be challenged again, this time by way of judicial review proceedings in the High Court and possibly above. If the procedure moved on from there, there would be a hearing before magistrates on the evidence, at which the

general's lawyers would again oppose the proceedings — this time on the grounds that they are political. An extradition request could be turned down on those grounds, as happened last week with the former MIS officer David Souter.

The magistrates' decision would be subject to appeals to higher courts and the whole procedure could take months. If, in the end, the courts ruled against the general, Mr Straw would have to decide whether the extradition should actually go ahead.



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"I missed it hoping I'd have to go back there on extradition proceedings"

## Calais for car buyers

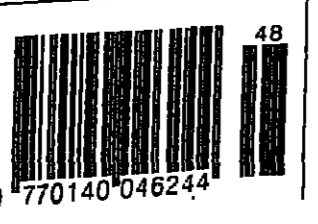
French car dealers are targeting British buyers as prices fall on the Continent as a result of harmonisation driven by the euro. A Honda Civic 1.4 is £13,400 in London and £10,433 in Calais. Page 29

## Top cartoonists

Peter Brookes of *The Times* is the Cartoon Art Trust Awards Political Cartoonist of the Year and Jonathan Pugh is the Pocket Cartoonist of the Year. Page 2

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## Labour popular despite economy

By PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR and his Government have weathered the storm over the economic downturn, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that public confidence about the economy has picked up from its recent depths after interest rate cuts and the stock market rally.

The Government's ratings continue at near-record levels for this stage of a parliament, with Labour now commanding 53 per cent support — the same as last month.

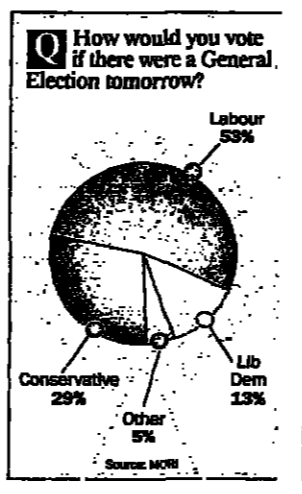
Mr Blair's personal rating also remains very strong, with 61 per cent satisfied with the way he is doing his job, compared with 29 per cent dissatisfied. The charges of Mr Blair being a "control freak" and rumblings of dissent among Labour activists have been brushed aside by Labour supporters: 84 per cent of whom approve of his record, with a mere 11 per cent disapproving. This compares with a 80 to 15 per cent balance a month ago.

The MORI economic index, measuring the proportion of the public believing that the general economic condition will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, now stands at minus 31 points, up from minus 46 a month ago. But, apart from last month, this is still lower than at any time since 1992.

Moreover, the proportion of the public mentioning unemployment among the most important issues facing Britain today has dropped from 43 to 35 per cent since last month.

However, there are glimmers of hope for the Tories. Their rating has risen by three points to 29 per cent, the highest level since March last year. This has been at the expense of the Liberal Democrats, whose rating has fallen three points to 13 per cent.

William Hague's personal rating is also continuing to improve on its previous very low levels. More people are still dissatisfied than satisfied with his performance (48 to 27



per cent) but this is the smallest gap since April.

Paddy Ashdown's personal rating has risen to plus 31 from plus 26, while his rating among Liberal Democrat supporters has improved from plus 65 to plus 74.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1883 people aged over 15 at 154 sampling points across Britain on November 20 to 23. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population and voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (10 per cent), who are undecided (8 per cent) or who refused to say (2 per cent).

## Greenbury wins M&S board war

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIR Richard Greenbury has fought off an attempt to unseat him as chairman of Marks & Spencer, Britain's leading clothing retailer, after winning the backing of the board of directors at a crisis meeting held late yesterday.

He has had to agree, however, to give up the other half of his job, as chief executive. The company will make a formal announcement of the board changes to the Stock Exchange this morning.

The fate of Keith Oates, Sir Richard's deputy, who led the attempt to unseat him while he was on holiday in India, was still under discussion last night.

Reports that Mr Oates had approached non-executive directors suggesting that he should replace Sir Richard, who has a reputation in the City as an fiercely autocratic manager, threw the company into crisis this month. The company has since maintained an absolute silence on the issue and banned directors from dis-



**Commentary, page 31**

Sir Richard: he fails to keep complete control of company

## Ireland hints at rejoining Commonwealth

By MARTIN FLETCHER  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S Prime Minister will delight Unionists today by raising the prospect of his country rejoining the Commonwealth.

In an interview with *The Times* Bertie Ahern said he would not seek to suppress a debate that he believed inevitable. The Commonwealth was "a very different thing now" to what it was when Ireland left in 1949.

Rejoining would be a hugely reassuring move to Northern Ireland's Unionists. "It would be a very, very significant and historic step forward," one senior Unionist official said last night. "It would be a further sign that the Cold War in Ireland has ended."

Mr Ahern was speaking on the eve of Tony Blair's unprecedented address to the Irish parliament this morning — the first by a British Prime Minister.

Mr Blair will say that the Good Friday accord gives Britain and Ireland the chance of a closer relationship no longer bedevilled by Northern Ireland.

Downing Street officials said he would say that "down through the centuries Britain and Ireland have inflicted too much pain on each other, but now we can try to put our histories behind us and forgive and forget old enmities and look to a better future".

But Mr Blair will be talking against the backdrop of another looming crisis in the peace process caused by the IRA's refusal to disarm and David Trimble's refusal to admit Sinn Fein to government until it does. Mr Blair failed to break the logjam yesterday

during a day of talks with the political parties at Stormont that was most remarkable for a public rift between Mr Trimble, the First Minister, and Seamus Mallon, his nationalist deputy.

Mr Mallon said agreements had to be taken by the middle of next week on the size of the executive and the merits of new north-south bodies if the accord was not to unravel. Mr Trimble said generating a sense of crisis and artificial deadlines was not helpful.

Ahern interview, page 16

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# Cosy comedies are kicked off the sofa

BBC says that shows must have more bite, reports Carol Midgley

THE BBC has ordered the death of the cosy domestic sitcom. No more will net curtains twitch or sofas be chased around as it goes in search of new comedy with "more bite and less whimsy".

Middle-class comedies in the mould of the 1970s classic *Terry and June* will now be consigned to the dustbin of television history. The BBC wants to regenerate the genre, encouraging new writers and producing comedies that owe more to *Coronation Street* and *The Simpsons* than to *Ealing Comedies* and *Carry On* films. One early casualty is *Next of Kin*, a drawing-room saga starring Penelope Keith about a couple who inherit custody of their grandchildren.

The BBC admits that, in recent years, its record for producing hit comedies on the scale of *Only Fools and Horses* and *Dad's Army* has been unsatisfactory. The BBC governors, in their annual report, pointed to the disappointing rate of new comedy successes. Funding for comedy output this year has risen by £10 million to £30 million, including 30 hours of new sitcoms which will be screened next year.

The announcement was made as it emerged that Michael Leggo, the BBC's Head of Entertainment for the past five years, is leaving to become a producer and director. He is being replaced by David Young, an outside appointment from the independent production company Bazal.

Peter Salmon, Controller of BBC1, said: "I am the net-curtain comedy killer, the man who took out a contract on suburban sofas, knitted pullovers and will do for some of the dreary 1950s scenarios that have infected too many comedies. The digital age of overwhelming choice is upon us - it's time for comedy to find new agendas, new sensibilities, new stars. "We've gone through quite a

difficult period. Many classic shows have probably come to a natural end - *Only Fools and Horses* and *Keeping Up Appearances*. Others are at the top of their game but on the home straight - *One Foot in the Grave*, *Men Behaving Badly*, *Birds of a Feather*, *Goodnight Sweetheart*."

New shows next year include Caroline Aherne starring in *Mrs Merton* and *Malcolm*, a sitcom based on the recent British Gas commercial in which she appears as an overprotective mother with a grown-up son. Lawrence Marks and Maurice Gran, the writers of *Birds of a Feather*, are providing two new sitcoms, *Cry Wolf*, set in a GP's surgery, and *Starting Out* about a young family.

Victoria Wood will have a second series of *dinnerladies*. A new sitcom from BBC Scotland, *All Along the Watchtower*, is billed as a modern *Dad's Army* and is set in a military base whose occupants do not realise the Cold War is over.

The new comedies commissioned by BBC1 would have "more bite than whimsy, less deference and more attitude", said Mr Salmon. "I think that, next year, BBC1 is going to have a lot less in the wastebin of memory and much more laughter to remember."

The comedy writer Barry Took said last night that the BBC risked "throwing the baby out with the bath water" by dispensing with the suburban sitcom. It was right that comedy should move on but the BBC should be mindful of what the viewer wanted.

"I am all for change, but they must remember some people do like comfortable, undemanding comedy," he said. "People have a right to that kind of entertainment if they want it - they pay the licence fee. The BBC might be criticising the 1950s-type stuff, but they are relying heavily on old classics in the schedule."



At the top of its form: *One Foot in the Grave*



The old and the new: the casts of *Birds of a Feather*, above, and the new Victoria Wood sitcom, *dinnerladies*



On the way out: *Keeping Up Appearances*

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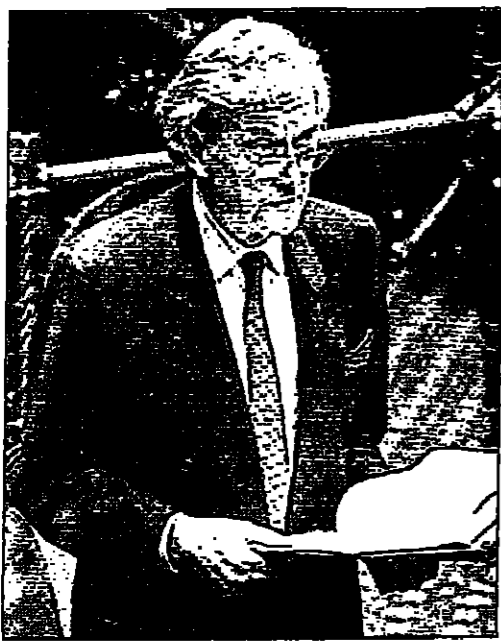
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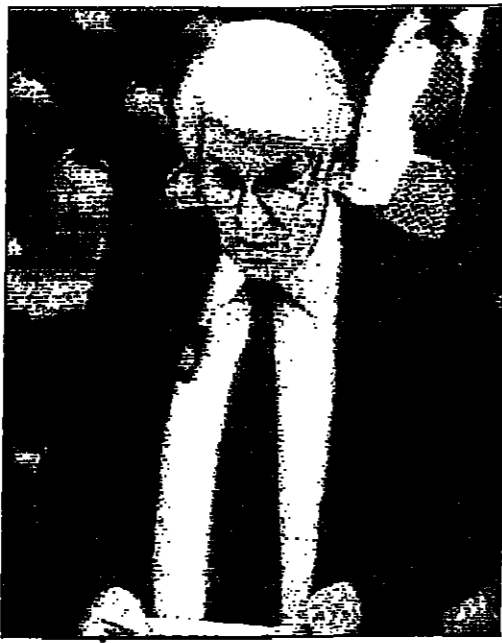
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AGAINST: Lord Slynn of Hadley



AGAINST: Lord Lloyd of Berwick



FOR: Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead



FOR: Lord Steyn



FOR: Lord Hoffman

BY JOANNA BAILE

# How the law lords divided

THE law lords were divided 3-2 as they delivered their dramatic individual judgments on the Pinochet case in the House of Lords yesterday.

The hearing's chairman, Lord Slynn of Hadley, rejected Spain's appeal against the High Court decision that General Pinochet enjoyed immunity from prosecution as a former head of state. He said that Augusto Pinochet was entitled to sovereign immunity because international law, such as the Torture Convention of 1984 and the Taking of Hostages

Convention of 1983, did not "contain any provisions which can be said to take away the customary international law immunity as head of state or former head of state". Lord Lloyd of Berwick, who also rejected the appeal, argued that almost all revolutionary leaders were guilty of serious crimes, such as murder, and that it was impossible to

give state immunity to some but not to others. He said: "It would be unjustifiable in theory, and unworkable in practice, to impose any restriction on head of state immunity by reference to the number or gravity of the alleged crimes. Otherwise one would get to this position: that the crimes of a head of state in the execution of his governmental authority

are to be attributed to the state so long as they are not too serious. But beyond a certain (undefined) degree of seriousness, the crimes cease to be attributable to the state, and are instead to be treated as his private crimes. That would not make sense." Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, who upheld Spain's appeal, dismissed arguments by General Pinochet's defence

that it would affect diplomatic relations between Chile and Britain. He said: "It cannot be stated too plainly that the acts of torture and hostage-taking with which Senator Pinochet is charged are offences under UK statute law. This country has taken extra-territorial jurisdiction for these crimes. The sole question before your lordships is whether, by

reasons of his status as a former head of state, Senator Pinochet is immune from the criminal processes of this country, of which extradition forms a part. Arguments about the effect on this country's diplomatic relations with Chile if extradition were allowed, or with Spain if refused, are not matters for the court. These are, par excellence, political mat-

ters for consideration by the Secretary of State in the exercise of his discretion under section 12 of the Extradition Act." Lord Steyn, who upheld the appeal, said: "The development of international law since the Second World War justifies the conclusion that at the time of the 1973 coup d'état and since, international law condemned genocide, torture,

hostage-taking and crimes against humanity (during an armed conflict or in peace time) as international crimes deserving of punishment.

"Given this, it seems to me difficult to maintain that the commission of such high crimes may amount to acts performed in the exercise of the functions of a head of state."

Lord Hoffman simply said: "I have had the advantage of reading in draft the speeches of my noble and learned friends Lord Nicholls and Lord Steyn, and for the reasons they give I too would allow this appeal."

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## Five were chosen on seniority and availability

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

### THE JUDGES

THE ruling on General Pinochet was made by some of the most senior of the 12 law lords who make up the highest court in the land.

The five would have been picked for the case by the senior law lord, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, in conjunction with the listing clerk in the House of Lords. Legal experts said yesterday that the overriding considerations would have been seniority and availability. One said: "You could not try to second-guess people's politics. Even if you know them, the law lords don't always work predictably — a Conservative may be a judicial activist and vice versa."

Lord Steyn is well known as one of the most liberal of the 12 law lords, along with Lord Hoffmann, while Lord Lloyd of Berwick is on the conservative wing. But lawyers were unwilling to place bets on how Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead would decide.

Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann share a background in South Africa and strong views about apartheid, state authority and individual rights.

Lord Steyn was educated in South Africa and at Oxford.

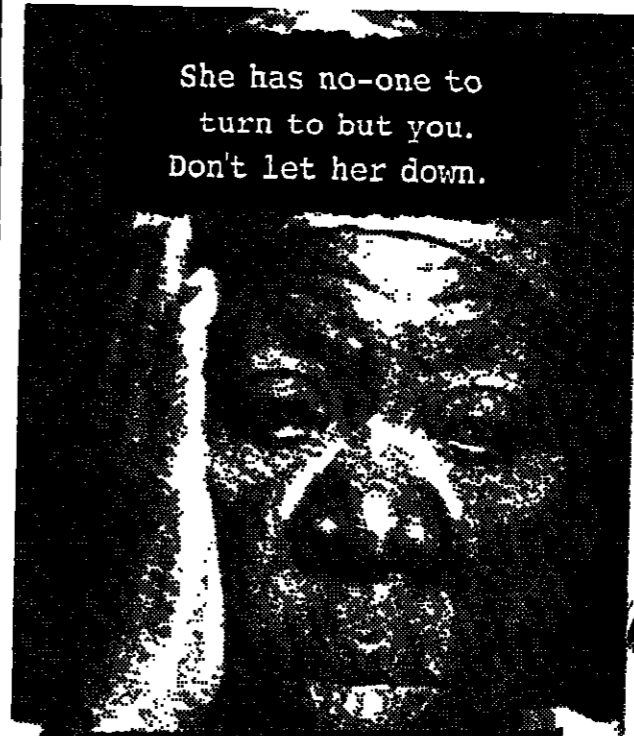
He reached the House of Lords just ten years after becoming a judge. His background is in commercial law.

Lord Hoffmann is regarded as the cleverest of the law lords. He was recently described in *Legal Business* magazine as the "most dominant personality in the Lords by a mile". Like Lord Steyn, he was a Rhodes Scholar.

Lord Nicholls, the other law lord who allowed the appeal, has a Chancery Bar background. One lawyer described him as "having a strong streak of individualism which can lead to anti-state rulings". He ruled against Michael Howard, the former Tory Home Secretary, over the setting up of a statutory Criminal Injuries Compensation Board to replace the more generous tariff-based system.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick, at 69, is the oldest law lord and will retire at Christmas. Regarded as a conservative, his ruling was not a surprise.

Siding with him was Lord Slynn of Hadley, who spent 11 years as Advocate-General at the European Court of Justice. He surprised some lawyers, who had expected him to follow the liberal line.



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# Troops called out as divided Chileans clash

The Lords' decision has given courage to relatives of those who disappeared, Gabriella Gamini reports

MOUNTED riot police had to be deployed across Santiago yesterday to separate jubilant anti-Pinochet crowds from incensed supporters of the former Chilean dictator who spilled onto the streets burning British flags.

Heavily armed troops used armoured vehicles and tanks to build a barricade to prevent clashes. More violence was expected last night as rival camps converged on to the central square outside La Moneda presidential palace in the capital. The troops were deployed minutes after the Lords ruling in London that General Pinochet had no immunity and can be extradited to Spain to face charges of genocide.

President Frei's Social Democrat Government said it would send a commission of parliamentarians today to lobby the British Government to intervene on "humanitarian grounds". A spokesman said: "We will continue to pressure Mr Blair's Government to release General Pinochet for the sake of Chilean stability and our right to judge our own crimes."

But as the news sank in, it appeared increasingly undeniable that the verdict will

present the biggest test faced yet by Chile's fledgling, eight-year-old democracy. The remote chance that General Pinochet would be held accountable for crimes committed during his rule delighted his opponents but left his supporters dismayed and the country deeply divided.

As relatives of some of the 3,500 victims of torture during the general's rule watched the proceedings from London on a

Santiago: The Chilean Army called for the release of General Pinochet. The army, which he used to head, urged the Government to take appropriate steps to secure his release. Its statement came as Santiago announced the dispatch of the Foreign Minister to London.

screen set up in a square near the palace, the reaction to the news was one of incredulity. "It's unbelievable and so unexpected," cried a woman as she hugged fellow relatives of the disappeared. She was among more than 200 women who had assembled at the venue. "We thought we would nev-

er see justice and now there is a very real chance that finally crimes committed will face judgment," said Viviana Diaz, the vice-president of the Association for the Victims and Relatives of the Disappeared, Chile's largest human rights organisation. "We had been expecting him to be sent back to Chile, this is unbelievable and a move which will revert our country's history."

Dancing among the crowds in the central Plaza O'Higgins, Señora Diaz said: "It is nothing but right that he should be submitted to a due judicial process where a judge and jury can decide whether he is guilty of the crimes he is accused of committing."

She added: "We have for so many years been scared to speak up about our dark past for fear of reprisals from the right-wing military in Chile. The ruling by the Lords has given the human rights campaign international approval."

It seems that many of Pinochet's victims had kept their own counsel for fear of upsetting the establishment that backs the former dictator. When General Pinochet was arrested at a London clinic on October 28, the reaction in Chile seemed strongly behind the aged former dictator.

Now, that view seems to have changed. While the Communist Party of Chile and human rights groups had long been the only voices of opposition, it is likely a majority of average Chileans will now support their call. This section of society has for the first time come out to celebrate. For the first time, too, political leaders are publicly endorsing General Pinochet's extradition.

The left-wing Chilean MP, Juan Pablo Letelier, said: "We will now demand the truth to come out. Time has come for the right and centre parties to realise that a Chilean history cannot be buried and that we cannot avoid investigating human rights crimes of the past."



Supporters of General Pinochet in Santiago, the Chilean capital, react with dismay on hearing yesterday's ruling from the House of Lords

# Watershed ruling for human rights

Leaders with blood on their hands now have no place to hide, writes Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

The Lords ruling will have an immediate and widespread influence on international law, marking a watershed in attempts to bring to justice those accused of human rights violations.

From now on, there will be no hiding place for dictators: any leader with blood on his hands will think twice before travelling to Britain and much of Western Europe.

Those accused of the worst crimes — Hafeez Mengistu Marian of Ethiopia or Idi Amin of Uganda — generally stay hidden in exile. But yesterday's ruling could open the way to extradition requests for other prominent visitors to London, including former Presidents De Klerk and Botha of South Africa, former military rulers in Latin America and most deposed African leaders, including such figures as Valentine Strasser, the former military ruler of Sierra Leone, who became a student at Warwick University.

Human rights lobbyists were jubilant yesterday in

forecasting a galvanising of the political will to prosecute torturers and those responsible for human rights violations. "It will open a floodgate of similar cases," said Dr Paolo Wrobel, of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Amnesty International declared: "It is a ground-breaking acknowledgment of the principle of universal jurisdiction for crimes against humanity, and of the international obligation to co-operate in the investigation and trial of those accused of such crimes."

The London-based organisation said that the ruling, made two weeks before the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reaffirmed the international community's commitment towards the fulfilment of basic human rights for all. The ruling is also likely to

accelerate moves towards establishing a permanent International Criminal Court. At first glance it would seem to weaken the case for such a tribunal, as it gives individual states the right to override national sovereignty in dealing with crimes against humanity.

But Amnesty and other human rights activists said that the Lords ruling was partly a result of the greater world concern arising from the war crimes tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Once the court was established, cases would be referred there rather than being taken on by individual nations, they said.

Britain will come under strong attack from Chile and other countries which fear intrusion of outside legislations

into their internal affairs. China will see the ruling with particular worry, fearing that it could give dissidents in exile a powerful lever to attack those who oppressed them.

Burma and many other regimes in Asia will also see the ruling as a dangerous threat to authoritarian governments.

The Lords ruling now effectively abolishes the barrier of national sovereignty as a protection for torturers and dictators. This could lead, however, to considerable argument over the definition of rights, the degree to which one country can judge another's political and legal systems and the mechanism for redress.

Human rights lobbyists yesterday admitted that little could be done against tyrannical rulers unless a body of evidence had already been accumulated on their crimes — whether in the country of origin or abroad. This could take years to establish. They also forecast the urgent need for a new look at the 1961 Vienna Convention and other international protocols that set out

the definition of diplomatic and state immunity. The fact that two of the highest courts in Britain had disagreed on the limits of state sovereignty would prompt immediate debate in Britain and probably elsewhere.

One fear voiced by those who opposed the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet is that the precedent could be used against Britain.

Some Chileans have warned of the danger to Baroness Thatcher if she visited a Latin American country — that she could be arrested to face extradition to Argentina on charges over the sinking of the *Belgrano* battleship during the Falklands conflict, when she was Prime Minister. Non-governmental organisations, however, said that the ruling would tighten the net on all those who escaped justice in their own countries.

It also encouraged countries to use the legislation already on the statute books to champion human rights.



An injured journalist is led away by police after he was attacked by Pinochet supporters in Santiago



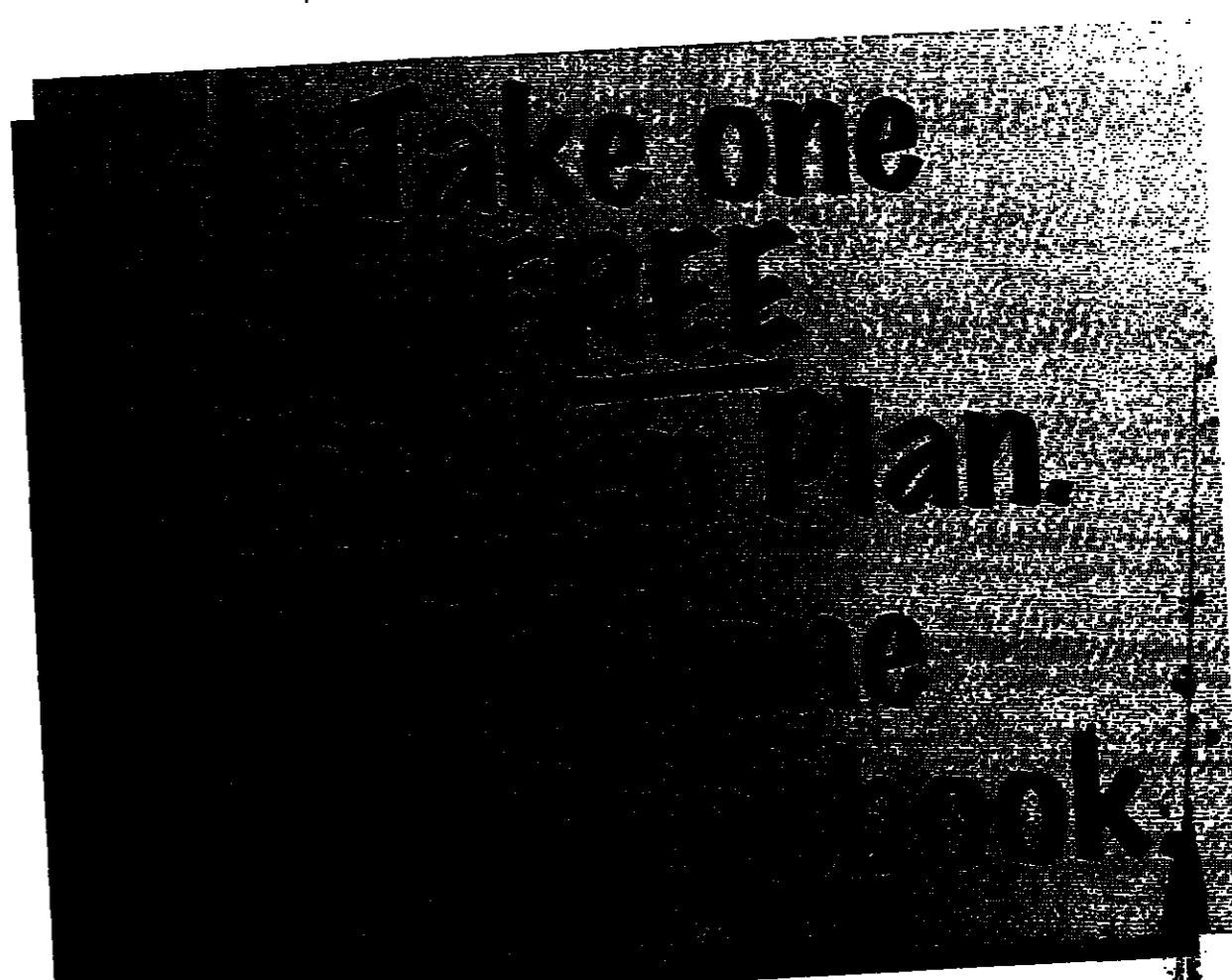
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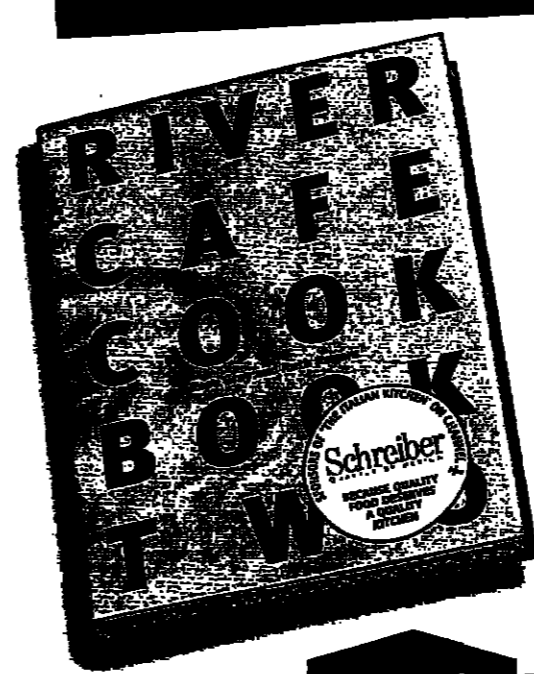
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# So much cash we don't know what to do

BRITONS just can't spend money fast enough, the latest government figures show. A dramatic rise in spending power has been matched by a difficulty in deciding exactly what to spend spare cash on. The rise in disposable income has even led to tea being supplanted in the nation's affections by coffee, cappuccino and other forms of coffee.

The first official analysis of changes in household spending since the 1960s shows that the average British family has become more cosmopolitan and health-conscious and increasingly partial to wine and spirits at the expense of beer and cider.

Martin Hayward, director of the consumer consultancy at the Henley Centre, said the findings clearly indicated that Britons were finding it increasingly difficult to spend as quickly as they earned. "Even in the poorest households, we estimate that 40 per cent of income is available for discretionary spending. The days of

**Official figures show Britons can't spend their money quickly enough, writes Alexandra Frean**

the family budget, when you put £10 in the teapot for this and £5 in a jam jar for that, are gone. Budgets used to spend themselves. Now we have to go through the angst of deciding what to spend our money on. It is the double-edged sword of affluence."

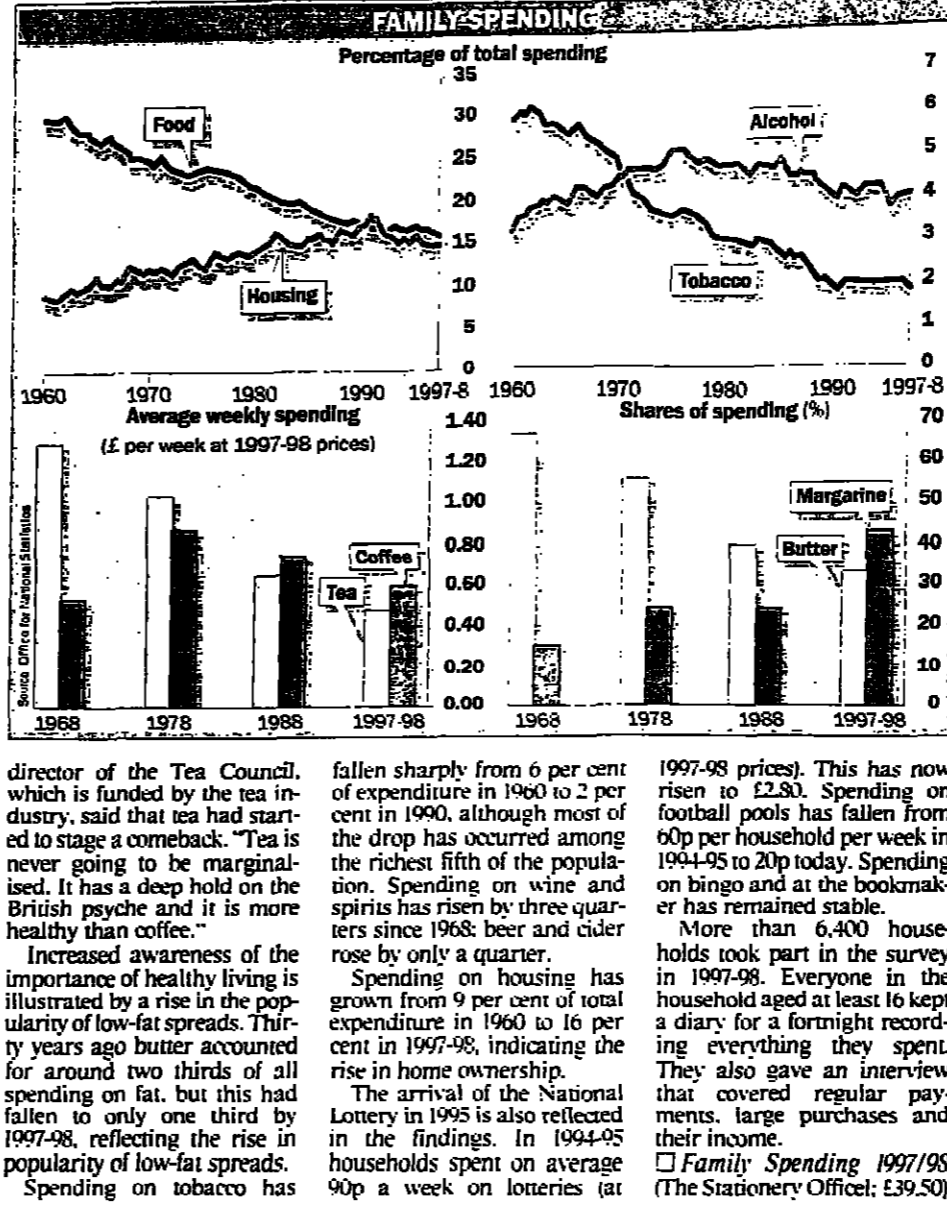
But the survey highlights wide variations in the pattern of spending between the richest and poorest over the past three decades. Total spending in the richest fifth of households rose by about 60 per cent between 1968 and 1997-98, but by only 13 per cent in the poorest

fifth. Spending on clothing and footwear showed an increase for the richest group of 16 per cent, but a small decrease was recorded for the poorest group.

Since the beginning of the 1960s the average gross weekly income has multiplied more than 23 times from £18 to £420.80 in 1997-98. Over the same period, average weekly household expenditure rose by just under 20 times from £16.50 to £328.80.

The effects of this are most clearly illustrated in changes in spending on food and non-alcoholic drinks. This remains the largest item of expenditure, but the proportion of family income spent on it has fallen from about 31 per cent in 1960 to 17 per cent in 1997-98.

A comparison of spending on individual items reveals the dramatic increase in the popularity of coffee. More than twice as much was spent on tea than on coffee in 1968, but by 1997-98 more was spent on coffee. Hilted Lewis, executive



director of the Tea Council, which is funded by the tea industry, said that tea had started to stage a comeback. "Tea is never going to be marginalised. It has a deep hold on the British psyche and it is more healthy than coffee."

Increased awareness of the importance of healthy living is illustrated by a rise in the popularity of low-fat spreads. Thirty years ago butter accounted for around two thirds of all spending on fat, but this had fallen to only one third by 1997-98, reflecting the rise in popularity of low-fat spreads.

Spending on tobacco has

fallen sharply from 6 per cent of expenditure in 1960 to 2 per cent in 1990, although most of the drop has occurred among the richest fifth of the population. Spending on wine and spirits has risen by three quarters since 1968: beer and cider rose by only a quarter.

Spending on housing has grown from 9 per cent of total expenditure in 1960 to 16 per cent in 1997-98, indicating the rise in home ownership.

The arrival of the National Lottery in 1995 is also reflected in the findings. In 1994-95 households spent on average 90p a week on lotteries (at

1997-98 prices). This has now risen to £2.90. Spending on football pools has fallen from 60p per household per week in 1964-68 to 20p today. Spending on bingo and at the bookmaker has remained stable.

More than 6,400 households took part in the survey in 1997-98. Everyone in the household aged at least 16 kept a diary for a fortnight recording everything they spent. They also gave an interview that covered regular payments, large purchases and their income.

Family Spending 1997/98 (The Stationery Office: £39.50)

## Hackney ordered to end race bias

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

A COUNCIL was yesterday given three weeks to end discrimination against black and Asian employees or face legal action from the Commission for Racial Equality.

An investigation by the commission uncovered widespread discrimination against ethnic minority staff of Hackney council in East London. They make up 37 per cent of all employees at the authority.

Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the commission, said: "It is deplorable that, over two decades after the Race Relations Act first went on to the statute book, a council that was one of the first to provide significant employment opportunities for ethnic-minority staff should be failing its employees and the public so comprehensively."

The council now has three weeks to draw up an action plan to tackle racial discrimination. If it fails, the commission may commence legal proceedings.

## How empty car parks could house 350,000

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BUILDING on car parks could play a key role conserving the countryside by steering more new housing into inner cities. A study by independent consultants has found that redeveloping half of England's car parks could house up to 350,000 people.

The report, commissioned from Tellus 42 by Friends of the Earth, claims that too much land is tied up in public and non-residential private parking. In some towns, such as King's Lynn, Norfolk, nearly a fifth of the town centre is parking space.

The report, based on a survey of 140 local authorities, has found that almost one in four car parks are rarely full or half full even during weekend and weekday daylight hours. It argues that councils and the Government could boost their revenues by allowing redevelopment. The average rental income from a car-park space is £330 a year. This is less than a fifth of the rent a council could collect from affordable housing.

The total revenue to the Treasury from car parks is estimated to be £100million a year. "We think that if half of all surface car parks were developed for a range of commercial and residential uses, then the annual rates revenue could be as high as £1billion per annum," says the study by David Williams, an independent planning adviser on town cen-

tre management, transport and economic development.

The Government estimates that 4.4 million new homes are needed by 2016 to meet the needs of an ageing population, divorce, the number of young people living alone and immigration, mainly from the Continent. The figures may rise to more than 5 million. It has set a target of building 60 per cent of new dwellings by 2008 on land that is derelict, abandoned or previously developed.

Campaigners and some property experts believe that more could be built in cities with a mixture of imaginative policies, levies or tax breaks. These include converting more offices into flats and more space above shops into homes, and making use of redundant hospitals, factories and schools.

The study found there are nearly 6,900 surface car parks — as opposed to underground or multi-storey — with 738,000 spaces. This equates to 1,845 hectares of land, equalling the area of Hammersmith and Fulham or Tower Hamlets.

With non-residential private parking such as for offices, the total area of car parks in England is 4,600 hectares of urban land. The report suggests that 2,640 hectares could be practically released for development into housing by 2016 without damaging local economies, and helping to favour buses, cycles and walking.

## Lawrence report tip-off for police

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are to be given advance warning of criticisms in the report by the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and the chance to persuade the inquiry team that they are wrong.

Details of the move were sent yesterday by Sir William Macpherson, the inquiry chairman, to all witnesses including the Lawrence family and the five men suspected of killing the son in a race attack.

The decision follows warnings that the Police Federation, which represents junior officers, and other police groups were considering a legal challenge if advance warning of criticisms were not promised.

In a statement, Sir William said witnesses would not be able to see the finished report or extracts before it is presented to the House of Commons. But they will be given the gist of planned criticisms and will be able to respond in writing.

Sir William said letters were sent to all witnesses before the inquiry outlining the issues they would be questioned about. The witnesses, including Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, were also told of the questions that might be raised, for example, on behalf of the Lawrence family. All police officers were represented by solicitors and counsel throughout the in-

quiry. Sir William has now accepted the Police Federation's argument that, in the interests of fairness, serving and former police officers should "not find criticism unheralded".

The report is not expected to be ready until February and officials do not believe that issuing the letters and examining responses will cause a delay.

The report will be in two sections. Part one will examine how police investigated the murder of the black student in southeast London, and this is the section that will contain criticisms. Section two will cover how policing in such cases could be improved.



Macpherson: will give police gist of criticisms

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Ombudsman in threat to name shameless GPs

Doctors must learn to say sorry, reports Mark Henderson

FAMILY doctors who shrug off criticism by health service watchdogs and refuse to apologise for mistakes may be named and shamed in official reports, it emerged yesterday.

Michael Buckley, the NHS Ombudsman, said that he would publish the names of GPs who refused to accept his findings and say sorry when complaints were upheld.

His aim is to fight "negative and defensive" attitudes that let patients down. The "heavy sanction" would be adopted for repeat offences and "flagrant examples of malpractice", Mr Buckley said.

He was speaking at the launch of his latest report, which included strong criticism of two GPs who unfairly removed patients from their

lists and refused to accept that they had acted wrongly or to apologise.

A Yorkshire GP refused to treat an elderly couple because he had had a disagreement with their daughter, and a GP in Ayrshire unfairly removed a man who had questioned his diagnosis and advice.

"I am disappointed that a few GPs are taking such a negative attitude," Mr Buckley said. "I don't regard it as satisfactory at the end of a long and thorough investigation that the GP can just shrug and walk away from my findings without saying sorry."

"I have no powers of compulsion, but I may in future decide to name family doctors who respond in this way."

Naming was a "heavy sanction" because of the effect it

could have on a GP's reputation, but may be necessary to give the ombudsman's office teeth, Mr Buckley said.

The ombudsman has the power to name any body or individual it investigates, but has yet to name any GPs because of their sensitive and on-going relationships with patients.

The plan is the latest in a string of moves to increase transparency and accountability in the National Health Service. The Commission for Health Improvement, which is to be established by the Health Bill announced in the Queen's Speech on Tuesday, will have the power publicly to name failing doctors who pose a threat to patient safety.

The ombudsman's report published yesterday is the first to include investigations of clinical practice in hospitals, after the introduction of new powers in 1996.

Mr Buckley upheld several serious complaints, including one against Central Nottinghamshire NHS Trust for not placing the body of a woman who died at Mansfield Community Hospital in a refrigerated mortuary.

Members of the woman's family were unable to view the body because it had deteriorated by the time they arrived at the hospital. The trust apologised.

A complaint against Warrington Hospital NHS Trust was also upheld. A man who later died from Legionnaire's disease was left for two hours after he pulled a drip from his arm, and had to wait six hours to see an anaesthetist before a transfer to intensive care when his condition deteriorated.

Staff then dealt insensitively with his family at a meeting, in which they addressed relatives by incorrect names, the ombudsman said.



Above, the two tiger cubs born at Glasgow Zoo; below, Butu, the proud father, who, contrary to the norm, is taking parenting in his stride

Tiger overturns myth of the wayward father

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

A PAIR of tiger cubs have been born at Glasgow Zoo with their father, Butu, on hand with a nuzzle and a welcoming lick, overturning the popular view that male tigers are a danger to their newborn cubs and are likely to kill or maim them.

Until recently it had been traditional to separate the male from the female in the run up to birth and for 12 weeks after.

Zoologists had observed male tigers slaughtering cubs in the wild and believed a similar fate would await captive-bred cubs if the father was around.

Richard O'Grady, a director of Glasgow Zoo, said yesterday: "It was something that was blindly accepted. You could have asked Sir David Attenborough and he would have said the same".

But new findings from the wild in India and from births at zoos world-wide indicate that the threat of having the father there has been significantly overplayed.

In Glasgow, worried zookeepers kept a keen eye on the mother, Ayesha and Butu amid concern that he and the offspring were in close contact. But their fears proved unfounded.

Staff even witnessed the father licking blood off one of the new-borns and the family, who can be seen by the

public, appears inseparable. Peter Jackson, a big cat expert with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in Gland, Switzerland, said yesterday that males did kill cubs in the wild, but these tended to be the offspring of rival males.

Doug Richardson of London Zoo, said that Howlett's Zoo near Canterbury, where he worked formerly, also kept tiger families together. "We had the male present in the same space," he said.

Mr Jackson believes improvements in the quality and size of enclosures in zoos may have contributed to making the father and mother tigers less stressed.



Suspended doctor takes case to UN

By Simon de Bruxelles

THE case of a doctor suspended from work for more than four years has been referred to the United Nations as an abuse of human rights.

Bernard Charnley, a consultant pathologist from South Wales, was suspended on full pay after the screening unit he ran allegedly failed to spot potentially cancerous cervical smears. Since then the 43-year-old father of three has been paid £60,000 a year to sit at home doing nothing.

The British Medical Association yesterday described his situation as "mental torture". A panel chaired by a barrister examined the case against him in September last year but has yet to produce its findings. Now Peter Tomlin, secretary

of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists, has asked the UN Commission for Human Rights to look into the case.

Dr Tomlin, who is investigating the costs of doctors' suspensions to the health service, which he estimates to be in excess of £10 million a year, said: "What has happened to [Dr Charnley] is appalling. It is unfair, a waste of money and downright cruel. I have referred his case to the United Nations on the ground that he is being denied his basic human right to work."

"They have accepted the case, against the Government, and have agreed to hear it," Dr Charnley used to work at the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil.

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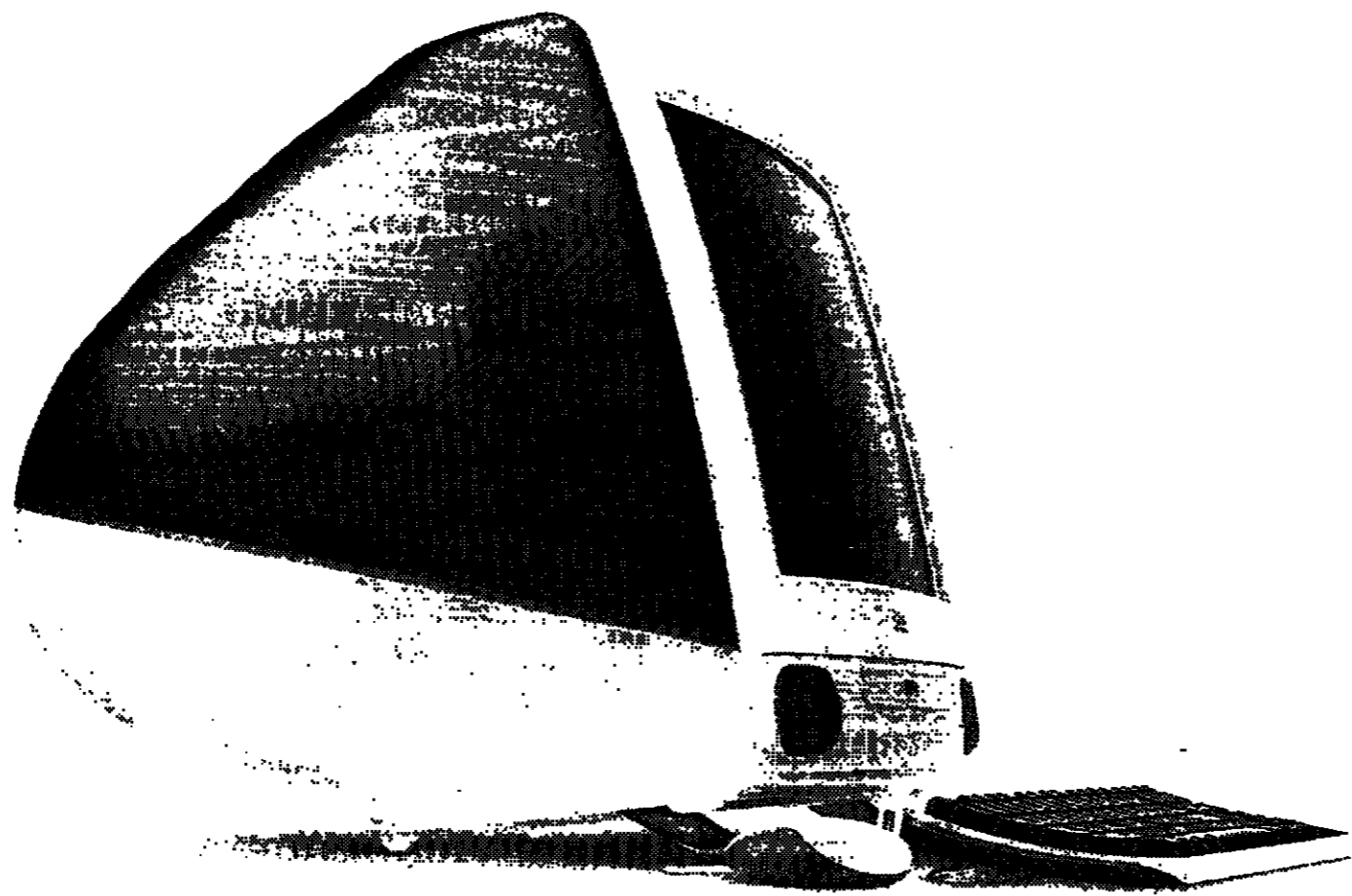
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# Thugs back to haunt football, say police

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOOTBALL violence has reappeared with a vengeance this season, having a trail of serious injuries and the risk that a fan or bystander will be killed, police said yesterday.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service, which monitors games throughout the 92 league clubs, said officers were becoming increasingly disturbed at the number of incidents.

In the first four months of the new season pubs have been smashed, mobs have run rampaging and one victim is in an intensive care unit after fights along a Stoke City gang.

A dossier of 22 incidents released yesterday by the service includes details of a battle between 20 hooligans from Manchester United and Coventry City on a train in September; a Leeds United and Bradford City game last month that led to 59 arrests; an attack on a pub used by Arsenal supporters after a derby with Tottenham Hotspur two weeks ago; and robberies and fighting on

a train carrying Sheffield United, Chesterfield and Nottingham Forest supporters last weekend.

Yesterday Detective Chief Superintendent Brian Drew, head of the service's strategic and specialist intelligence branch, said: "There is a lot of violence being used. We can't discount the fact that someone will be seriously injured or killed." The victims could include not only football fans fighting each other but by-

standers as the confrontations spilled across streets.

Mr Drew said although football arrests have been steadily falling in the past five years violence has never disappeared. Last month 150 officers from across the country meeting at a national conference said they believed there was an upsurge in violence this season. Reports gathered by the service support their view.

Mr Drew said: "This season the ugly face of football hool-

iganism has continued to gain its unwelcome presence. A hard-core — well-organised and hell bent on causing mayhem — is using football matches as a cover for its criminal activities."

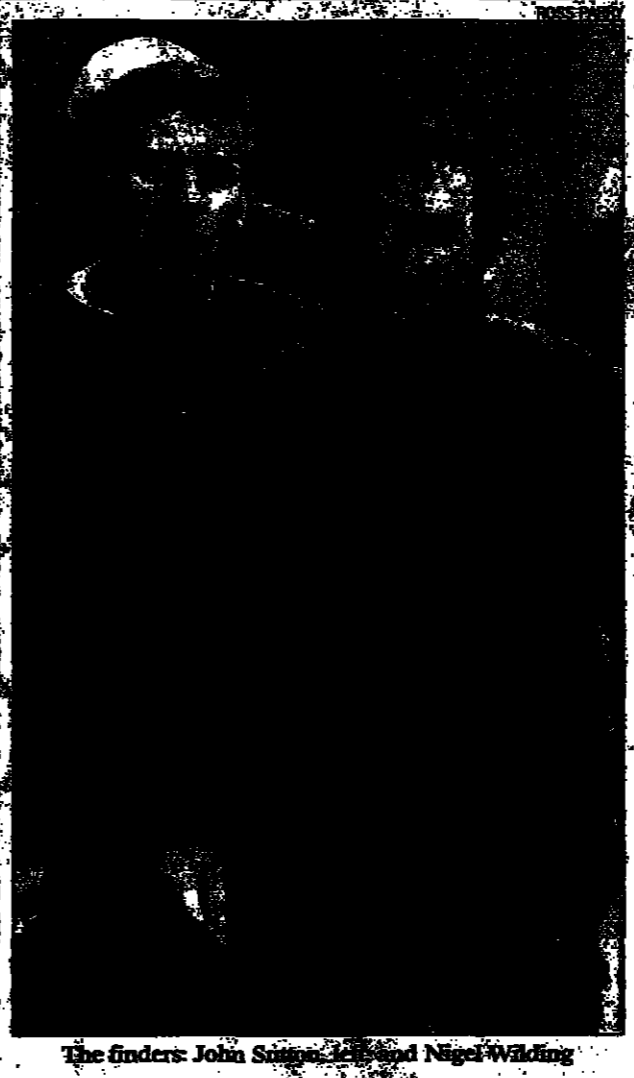
Mr Drew said: "The hooligans used to be seen as mindless thugs. They are not mindless. They are organised and use mobile telephones, pagers and dispatch riders to organise."

Many of the battles now take place away from grounds because new controls such as closed-circuit television, all-seater grounds and ticket-only matches. But a new generation of hooligans has emerged and they are planning confrontations.

He said that exclusion orders that prevent hooligans from getting into grounds had not acted as a deterrent. The orders were inconsistent or not far-reaching enough and they were not mandatory. They did not for example stop offenders travelling to grounds.

## AND LIFE IS TOUGHER ON THE PITCH

Injuries to professional soccer players are now more than double those of 10 years ago, a study has found. The study, published in the *Journal of Sports Medicine*, says it is not possible to make sports free of injury, and footballers had a generally low understanding of prevention strategies. The study also found that players were not using correct ways to warm up and cool down and were not training to improve strength and flexibility.



The finders: John Sutton and Nigel Wilding

# Beach riddle of a golden find

By JACQUES DOOR

A RARE top ancient Anglo-Saxon sword was not found on a beach as claimed by two men with a metal detector, but was probably unearthed from an ancient burial site near by, according to evidence at a "treasure trove" inquest.

Geological and archaeological experts cast doubt on the claims of John Sutton and his son-in-law Nigel Wilding who say they found the 7th century gold pommal encased in clay on Aldborough beach near Hull. The boulder clay on the beach was said to be older than the sword, so a more likely source was Melton Hill.

The inquest jury at Hull has to help to determine to whom a reward, if any, is payable under the 1996 Treasure Act after first establishing the true site of the find. Geoffrey Saul, the

coroner, said police became involved after doubts were expressed about the site.

Mr Sutton told the inquest that he had been metal detecting while his son-in-law was sea fishing. A friend suggested the find may be a Viking dagger tip, so he took it to experts at the North Lincolnshire Museum in Scunthorpe. Since then he had been told by various sources that it was worth £10,000 to £3 million.

Mr Saul said that a reward may be paid, at the State's discretion, to the finder, the occupier of the land, and anyone with interest in the land at the time of the find.

The coroner told the jury that neither Mr Wilding nor his father-in-law faced any police action. The inquest continues today.

# Giant jailed for strangling Wren

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A MAN who claimed that he accidentally killed a young Wren while having an epileptic fit was convicted yesterday of her murder.

Steve Smith, 31, who is 7ft 1in, was jailed for life for strangling 23-year-old Tammy Williams, a navy photographer he had met in a street in Plymouth and forced her back to his flat.

After his conviction by a jury at Plymouth Crown Court, police disclosed that Smith, 31, had stood trial accused of two separate assaults on women six weeks before he killed Miss Williams. At both trials for rapes alleged to have taken place in his home town of Barnstaple, north Devon, held one after the other at Exe-

ter Crown Court, he persuaded the jury that the women had consented to sex.

The jury at the murder trial was never told that Smith was in Plymouth when he met the Wren because he had moved there when required to stay away from Barnstaple as a condition of his bail.

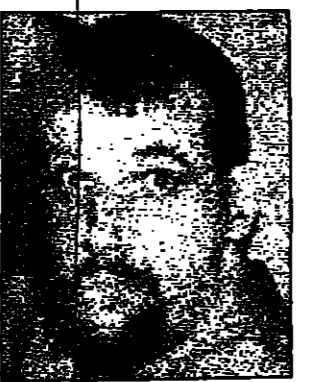
Smith claimed that he had no recollection of killing Miss Williams because he was suffering a seizure at the time. After coming round and finding her dead in his flat he put her body in a cupboard.

He later told friends and his parents that he had "killed a woman" but gave different accounts of what had happened.

Jailing Smith for life, the judge, Mr Justice Sedley, told him: "The crime of which you have been convicted is a quite dreadful crime. You have ended without motive, reason or even provocation a bright young life and her friends and family deserve every possible sympathy."

After the case Detective Inspector Norman Brown, who led the investigation, said it had been difficult even though Smith had given himself up to police and told them he was involved in the death.

"It has always been our case that he forced this Wren from the street to his flat where he murdered her."



Slayer had stood trial for assaults on women

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# 'Our town' tales could make Dome's day

Dominic Kennedy reports on plan to raise attendance

A TOWN'S day is to be invited to the Millennium Dome to put on a show about its history, the present day and aspirations for the future.

The people of Stirling will travel 429 miles to Greenwich in January 2000 to become the first community to take part in the "Our Town's Story" initiative. It is a marketing play by the Dome's promoters, who need to attract 33,000 people a day to achieve the minimum target of 12 million visits.

The aim is to create a Domesday Book of live performances, describing the communities of the United Kingdom today. The results will be accessible via the Internet.

Those taking part in the shows will be allowed in free. But the cashloads of parents, grandparents, friends and custodians of civic pride cheering them on will have to pay.

Stirling is looking to find the oldest person and the youngest telling their story," said Maggie Semple, who is launching Our Town's Story today, with 400 days to go before the millennium.

Bury wants to send 100 children to New York to bring back 100 American children. During the Atlantic sea voyage, the plan to write and practise their story. Their ship would finally carry them up the Thames to Greenwich to put on the show.

Winchester is considering sending its cathedral choir.

Newcastle upon Tyne was "so ambitious they might want to bring 2,000 dancers", Ms Semple said. Dudley is proposing to stage a children's opera.

In Northern Ireland, towns are hoping communities can be united by creating shared performances about their history and future. The stories of early Christian settlements will be told in presentations for Bangor, Armagh, Derry and Downpatrick. Belfast will celebrate its shipbuilding and linen industry heritage.

Shetland islanders are proposing to sail down the North Sea to London, perform at the Dome then return via the Irish Sea.

Greenwich schoolchildren are already working on their

town's story. They are researching the history of Sanchez the slave, a historical figure who landed at the port.

Schools have been looking at the history of Sanchez, how he arrived, how Greenwich changed as a result of him being here and how they can represent it in dramatic form," Ms Semple said.

The languages of Celtic Britain will be heard: the Welsh are planning bilingual performances and the Scots are sending Gaelic singers.

Our Town's Story has been designed to slot into the school curriculum. Ms Semple, a dancer who has been head of performing arts at a school, a deputy headmistress and also an inspector, said the programme would place no extra burden on teachers.

"I have put on thousands of school plays. I know where the tears are and I know about the costume-making the night before," she said. "We are not bolting on extra work for teachers for the Millennium. Everything is about helping them to deliver the curriculum."

Each education authority in the UK is being asked to present a town's story, so that the Millennium Experience could be devoted to a single community on more than 200 days. "The education sector couldn't have a better platform than the Dome to celebrate what it is already doing really well," Ms Semple said.



Semple placing no extra burden on teachers



Andy Elson, left, and Colin Prescott preparing for their all-night lock-in yesterday

# British balloon team goes to sleep on the job

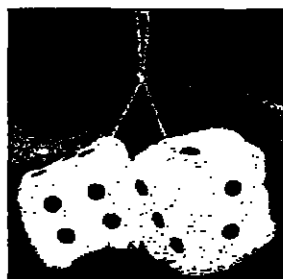
BY HELEN RUMBELOW

THE only all-British round-the-world ballooning team spent last night sleeping in their capsule in the back yard before venturing further afield.

Although the wicker baskets of the first days of ballooning have been replaced by what looks like a bottle bank crammed with hi-tech instruments, this is still an old-fashioned British adventure. Instead of Marmite sandwiches, Andy Elson and Colin Prescott have two giant pots of it, and instead of late-night Ribena, they have 30 bottles in preparation for up to three weeks spent 30,000ft up in the 7ft by 10ft living space of the *Cable & Wireless* balloon.

Last night was a final 24-hour lock-in in the capsule in Chesham before taking it out to the launch site in Almeria in Spain.

Mr Elson has made the capsule slightly more spacious since his attempt last year when he won the world ballooning endurance record for spending almost ten days aloft with Bertrand Picard of the Breitling team. That international team was not especially well-matched but since his defection, Mr Elson, 45, has acquired a British co-pilot, Mr Prescott, 48. They have flown together only once, for about an hour, but both are confident that their sense of national pride and grit will give them the edge over their five rival teams. "We're very British in our sense of adventure," Mr Prescott, director of the Flying Pictures Ballooning



Hoping for luck: fluffy dice in the cockpit

Company in Stockbridge, Hampshire, said. "We're trying to concentrate on flying rather than all the hoopla."

"Our way of doing things is British, it's understated," Mr Elson agreed. "This time it's going to be about the science of success where last time it was Bertrand's trip to India."

Once Mr Elson has scrambled back into the capsule after banging out its solar panels as it launches, they will spend shifts of six hours in their bunks and 18 hours sitting in the customised car seats at the controls.

"We're very different characters," said Mr Prescott, who went with Mr Elson to a psychologist to help them get on during what they hope will be a very long flight in a very small space. "He is the fiery one and me being the diplomat, it's all very complementary."

Diplomacy is needed in conditions where a bath is a tube of Wet Wipes and food is an endless stream of recomputed noodles. This will, however, be leavened with a Christmas pudding if occasion demands.

# Methodists told: For you, ze joke is over

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE Methodist Church has been asked to apologise to Germans for a spoof of an EU directive. The joke, which has already done the rounds of the Internet and office fax machines, fell foul of race equality watchdogs when it appeared in a parish magazine in Cheltenham this month.

The "directive" announces that English has become the official language of

Europe, but that the Government has agreed to phase in some spelling changes to make it easier for foreigners. Gradually the wording transforms into cod German as spoken in war comics as V's replace W's and th's become z's. The final sentence reads: "Ze dream vil finali kum tru. Ja!"

The joke fell flat when officials of Gloucestershire's Race Equality Council read it in the December newsletter of St Mark's church after a complaint.

The council's spokesman Tony Gomez said: "It's in bad taste. It's not serious enough for prosecution, but an apology would be appropriate."

Donald Briggs, the church member who submitted the article, conceded that he had "adapted" it from an in-flight magazine. He said yesterday: "It's certainly not racist, it's a joke." A total of 435 Internet websites each claim the idea. A version even appeared in Philip Howard's column in

*The Times* in March. The St Mark's minister, the Rev John Beardley, said: "There are no grounds whatsoever for objection to this article. I apologise if there's anybody who doesn't have a sense of humour."

The complaint came from a Gloucester woman who was shown the magazine by a friend. She said: "The implication is clearly that the Germans are still trying to take over Europe, like Hitler did, and all that follows."

# Mice give alcoholism clue

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NATURAL substance that helps to control appetite may also have a role in controlling alcohol consumption. Scientists have found that mice lacking the material, neuropeptide Y (NPY), are more inclined to drink alcohol but are less sensitive to its effects.

NPY has many effects in the brain, of which the most im-

portant is its ability to stimulate appetite. Scientists at the University of Washington, in Seattle, found that mice without NPY drink more alcohol when offered it, but are less sleepy. Mice bred to make too much NPY are the opposite: they drink less alcohol but are more susceptible to the effects.

The results, Todd Thiele

and colleagues report in *Nature*, are evidence that alcohol consumption is controlled, at least in part, by levels of NPY in the brain.

If the same is true in human beings, it could provide clues to alcoholism. The evidence is that people less sensitive to alcohol are more likely to become alcoholics.

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# Tory peers throw down gauntlet over abolition

THE Tory leadership yesterday warned the Government that it would not accept the expulsion of hereditary peers from the House of Lords without the guarantee of further reforms.

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, gave ministers the clearest signal yet that their reform Bill will face a stormy passage through Parliament when it is introduced next year.

The Government confirmed this week that it will introduce a first stage Bill abolishing the voting and sitting rights of hereditary peers this session. Wider, second stage reforms will be delayed for some years while a Royal Commission considers various alternatives.

Speaking on the first afternoon of a five-day debate on the Queen's Speech, Lord Cranborne criticised the Government for trying to expel hereditary peers without saying what would take its place. There was the "greatest suspicion" that the Government "will be tempted to kick stage two into touch, no matter what the Royal Commission recommends".

He urged the Government not to let the document "gather dust" in some Whitehall pi-

## Viscount Cranborne attacks 'snake oil salesmen' who are rigging reform, reports James Landale

geonhole. He added: "In the absence of any guaranteed progress to stage two, it will be extremely difficult for my noble friends and I to accept the Government's proposals and we must, I fear, look forward to a long and difficult session." Lord Cranborne said the "fatal incoherence" of the Government's constitutional reforms was forcing Tony Blair to rely on "rigged" referendums which "served only to reinforce the impression that the Prime Minister's principal objective is to undermine the position of Parliament as the bedrock of the constitution."

He accused Mr Blair of dangerously "unking" with a Parliament whose scrutiny he wished to avoid. "We are being sold snake oil by snake oil salesmen who only want to perpetuate their hold on power by rigging the system," he told peers. "They want nothing to do with genuine reform centred on a Parliament that works better and we should,

as a House, use the next session to expose them."

However, Baroness Jay of Paddington, the Leader in the Lords, said that the Government was determined to see its reforms through. "It is promised in our manifesto and it will be delivered by the Government," she said. The first stage Bill would be a self-contained measure. She insisted: "The Government is as committed to the second part of its manifesto proposals as the House of Lords as it is to the first. The Royal Commission is not a delaying tactic. It will work to a tight timetable and its recommendations will be promptly considered."

She said that many Tory peers were members of the "St Augustine school of Lords reform - it is a good idea in principle, but not yet, my Lords, not yet. The problem with this approach is that 'not yet' has, in the past, always become 'never'."

bench peers. Although she praised some for their independence, she effectively accused the majority of being closet Tories. "This House knows which lobby they go through time after time after time," she said. "Independent by name but not independent by nature."

Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank, the Liberal Democrat leader, urged the Government to be more clear about its plans for second stage reform. "We are presented again with a great deal of vagueness about the timetable, which this House ought to know," he said.

The Earl of Dunmore, 52, an electrical supervisor from Tasmania, told peers how Australia was planning to reform its own constitution. The 12th Earl, who inherited the title from his father three years ago, was making his first trip to Britain to deliver his maiden speech in the House of Lords before hereditary peers are abolished.

To loud cheers from the Tory benches, he said it was not his place to question the Government's reforms, but urged: "I pray the new look second chamber will not lose the rich tradition and heritage



that has made it such a respected place and which has given such a great contribution over the centuries."

decided where to live," he said. "Before we leave home, we need to be sure where we are going, otherwise what may beckon may be a constitutional wilderness."

Lord Waddington, the former Tory Home Secretary and former Leader of the Lords, said: "In the absence of a written constitution amendable only by special procedures, there are few safeguards in

Britain against a Government which is supported by a hefty but very temporary majority in the Commons destroying our most precious institutions, including the monarchy."

These institutions had "grown up over the centuries and most people recognise they are not the playthings of politicians, to be tampered with at the whim of a temporary majority in the Commons." Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet Secretary, praised the Government's "ambitious programme" of reform but warned of the dangers of an entirely nominated second chamber. "In the absence of hereditary peers, it is essential for the Royal Commission to find a way of filling most of the Lords which does not depend solely on the executive."



'Essential to find better way of filling the Lords' - Lord Butler of Brockwell



'I pray the chamber will not lose rich tradition' - Earl of Dunmore

## Apathy may marr result of Scottish by-election

By Shirley English and Gillian Harris

ONE in eight Scots will get the chance to vote today in what will be the final test of public opinion before May's elections to the first Scottish parliament in 300 years.

The North East Scotland by-election, prompted by the death of sitting Euro-MP Alan Macarney, the Scottish National Party's deputy leader, will be watched closely by all four major parties. Although Mr Macarney won the seat from Labour in 1994 with a landslide 31,000 majority, the outcome is not clearcut.

The constituency has changed hands between the Tories, Labour and the SNP three times in 20 years, which is more than any other European constituency. With Labour nudging ahead of the SNP in the latest polls, no one is taking victory for granted.

But perhaps the greatest battle facing the four main candidates will be voter apathy. Turnout, traditionally low in European by-elections, is expected to be poor. A lacklustre campaign has excited little interest, and politicians will be relieved if even a third of the

electorate bothers to vote. Ian Hudghton, 47, from Forfar, is the SNP's bright hope and the favourite to hold on to the seat, which includes the Banff and Buchan constituency of Alex Salmond, the SNP leader. After three weeks on the campaign trail, the former painter and decorator, who now leads Angus council, will have completed more than 5,000 miles.

Universally acknowledged as "a nice man", Mr Hudghton's style is low key. One party worker said: "He's not what you would call flamboyant. But he's very dependable and efficient."

The candidate who has grabbed most of the meagre headlines is Labour's Kathleen Walker Shaw, 37, who was parachuted in from Brussels, where she works as the European officer of the GMB union. Although she has the right credentials - familiar with Europe and bilingual, in practice she has been remarkably gaffe-prone. On her first day on the hustings she called SNP policies racist and was forced to retract her remarks. Last week she lied to reporters

and claimed that she had been born in Aberdeen.

Such shenanigans are manna from heaven for Leith Raffan, 49, who is standing for the Liberal Democrats and takes great pride in the fact that the press has described him as the most "flamboyant" contender. His rivals prefer adjectives such as "oddy". A former Tory MP for Delyn in North Wales, he claims to be the most local candidate, having genuinely been born in Aberdeen.

The Conservatives, who came third last time are hoping to see signs of recovery. Struan Stevenson, 50, from Ayrshire, admits that there is a "great deal of apathy" and complains of being lonely: "You feel you are campaigning on your own. It's not like fighting for Westminster."

Labour demand an apology last night after prospective SNP candidate for the Holyrood parliament compared Tony Blair to Hitler's propaganda chief, Joseph Goebbels. Alistair Nicholson, accused him of spreading "misinformation and lies to bewilder and confuse the voter".

## Britain cannot escape tax policy for Europe

EUROPEAN policy is never straightforward for Britain. Even governments with strong pro-European instincts such as the Blair administration soon find that their rhetoric clashes with the realities of European decision-making.

Tony Blair has pursued closer relations with other governments. He visited Spain two weeks ago and held talks last Sunday with Bodo Hombach, the German Chancellor's Minister, who has very New Labour views.

This week, however, we have seen familiar headlines that "Britain blocks tax harmonisation", alarmist stories in the *Daily Mail* and yesterday's front page of *The Sun* with a photo of Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, next to the question, "Is this the most dangerous man in Europe?"

Herr Lafontaine is certainly a problem for the British Government but it is ludicrous to claim that he "is the biggest threat to the British way of life that we have seen since 1945". What about the threat of hyper-inflation and massive state intervention under Tony Benn in the mid-1970s?

The reality is less dramatic though still tricky. Initial contacts between the Blair camp and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and his advisers have shown broad agree-

ment on economic policy. But Herr Lafontaine and his allies are not on that wavelength. He is both a destabilising influence within the Bonn coalition and offers a different economic analysis. He believes Germany's economic problems are caused by a lack of demand and opposes many proposals for structural reform because they threaten the long-established social model.

The Blairites also point to a major speech two weeks ago by Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, calling for structural reforms to make labour and other markets work more efficiently. That speech, which is backed by the Schröder camp, envisaged a tight fiscal policy to permit a more flexible monetary policy, as pursued by Alan Greenspan in America.

The immediate complication is tax policy. It is misleading to claim that Britain opposes all harmonisation. After all, it would be in Britain's interests for continental duties on alcohol and tobacco to rise towards British levels, in order to reduce smuggling. British minis-

ters are also discussing ways of attacking tax loopholes.

The immediate British concern is over the proposed withholding tax on interest income that would threaten the Eurobond market in London. Proposals have been put forward to increase tax transparency and to promote exchange of information between tax authorities. More ambitious ideas for harmonising corporate tax rates seem unlikely to be agreed in view of wide differences in national tax bases.

The quandary for Mr Brown is that he has raised his flag so strongly on the ground of national fixing of tax rates and the sovereignty of Parliament, so that it will be harder for him publicly to compromise where it is in Britain's interest. More broadly, the Blair Government will have to accept that the rest of the European Union will not stand still while Britain makes up its mind on monetary union. The 11 Euro founders will press ahead with fiscal measures to make the system work better. Britain would rather this did not happen, because it provides further ammunition for sceptics at home.

But some tax harmonisation is likely, even for nothing like the scale suggested this week. And a British Government really wanting to be at the heart of Europe better come to terms with his.



Peter Riddell ON POLITICS

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# Mandelson acts to block union recruiting drives

PETER MANDELSON is to go ahead with stringent safeguards to prevent unions organising snap recruitment campaigns to secure automatic recognition in the workplace.

He is to give new powers to the Central Arbitration Committee to force unions to prove that their members wish to be represented by them for collective bargaining.

The move is likely to infuriate trade unions who will accuse the Government of reneging on one of the key clauses in the White Paper on union rights. Under the Fairness at Work Bill unions will win statutory recognition rights if 40 per cent of the workforce vote in favour.

But it also includes a clause giving automatic recognition if 50 per cent of the workforce are already union members. Any condition on the latter clause effectively stops it being automatic.

Mr Mandelson has been concerned about the automatic clause and has reopened negotiations on the issue since he took over as Trade and Industry Secretary. But he has been anxious not to jeopardise relations with trade unions by bowing to all the employers' demands.

He has now dropped a requirement for a minimum period of trade union membership as a condition of automatic union recognition, a request by the Confederation of British Industry which had been under serious consideration.

## Safeguards on workplace recognition are attacked by TUC, writes Jill Sherman

But Mr Mandelson has agreed to employer requests to make it more difficult for unions to reach the 50 per cent automatic threshold. He has also revised the proposals to abolish the ceiling on compensation for unfair dismissal. Instead he intends to raise the ceiling from £12,000 to about £50,000.

Mr Mandelson has decided against writing the new safeguards into primary legislation on the face of the Bill which would have prompted an immediate backlash by Labour MPs.

But the Bill will give the little used Central Arbitration Committee new powers. If an employer, for example, disputes a union claim that 50 per cent of the workforce are in its membership, the CAC will be able to force the union to hold a ballot of its members to ensure that they wish the unions to represent them in collective bargaining.

The CAC will also have powers to check whether the union has recruited legitimate members, rather than people who

have merely been given free membership cards.

Mr Mandelson will argue that the compromise does not go as far as employers would have liked, but he is likely to face intense opposition from union leaders. Last night Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, one of the more moderate unions, said that he would be bitterly disappointed if Mr Mandelson reneged on any of the key clauses. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, has also warned Tony Blair against watering down the White Paper.

Mr Mandelson refused to disclose any details when he referred to the Fairness at Work Bill during the Queen's Speech debate yesterday. But he signalled that he was prepared to make changes to reassure employers after listening to responses to the White Paper. "These have helped us to develop and refine the detail," he said.



Onlookers gaze up at the sky as the sun goes out for a few seconds over Giggleswick, North Yorkshire on June 29, 1972. Back then, three million people descended on the area to see the solar eclipse - still the biggest recorded movement of people by train in Britain. (Mark Ingfield writes.)

## Lib Dems are in eclipse

view the next one. Yesterday, Matthew Taylor, Liberal Democrat MP for Truro and St Austell, called on the Government to create the post of Eclipse Minister to coordinate the event. Mr Taylor said that the strain on local services

could cause a disaster. He said: "What we need is Government understanding that it is a national event, not a local one, that will need national support." But Nick Raynsford, the junior Environment Minister, rejected the idea,

saying it was not an emergency. He also ruled out Mr Taylor's request for extra government funding, saying the additional costs would be met by the police. "The Devon and Cornwall Constabulary estimates the cost of policing the

eclipse is £600,000 - less than half of 1 per cent of its budget," Mr Raynsford said. He also pointed out that Cornwall would reap huge financial benefits, and should be grateful. The eclipse will be seen for, at most, two minutes and six seconds on the line of totality just north of Penzance to just south of Falmouth.

Leading article, page 25

may marr reshish by-election

## Field predicts revolt over welfare reform

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

FRANK FIELD today gives warning that the Government faces a serious backbench revolt unless it changes tack over its planned shake-up of the welfare state.

Mr Field, the former Minister for Welfare Reform, says that rather than offering a hand-up, the proposals risk being "yet another put-down for the poor".

The Birkenhead MP who lost his job in July after being told to "think the unthinkable", takes ministers to task in today's *New Statesman* for their piecemeal approach to reshaping the benefit system.

The Queen's Speech on Tuesday outlined plans to tighten eligibility for a number of benefits, including incapacity benefit and widows' benefit. Mr Field said the moves went back on Labour's pre-election stance by taking a "further drive into a means-tested morass". He also accused ministers of taking a "trick out of Tory ministers' book by masking the true extent of their proposed reforms."

Although the changes to widows' benefit were announced

as extending coverage to widowers, the move would eventually see widows without children losing out to the tune of £500 million a year, he said.

And although the element of mobility allowance within incapacity benefit was being extended to children aged three and four as well as the over-fives, the national insurance rights of the long-term sick and disabled were being "hacked away" to provide annual savings of £750 million.

Mr Field's attack, based around his insistence that means-testing encourages dishonesty and discourages work and savings, will not surprise ministers.

The ex-minister said this year's welfare reform Bill would provide a "watershed" in the life of the Government.

"Either the Government takes seriously the consultation it is undertaking, in which case the Bill is likely to be radically different from the proposals that have been announced. Or the Bill will follow those proposals in detail. This will test the mettle of Labour backbenchers," he said.

## £5bn investment in school renovation

A THREE-YEAR £5.4 billion investment programme to rebuild crumbling schools was announced yesterday by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary. The money - a mixture of direct government grants, permission for local authorities to borrow and deals

with the private sector - will help thousands of schools. Projects will range from fixing leaking roofs and replacing temporary classrooms to new heating systems and construction of new schools. Mr Blunkett said the money amounted to an extra £750 per pupil.

## CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will be the principal speaker today at a conference on "The Crisis of Strong Government" organised

by Democratic Audit and Charter88 and sponsored by *The Times*. It is being held at Central Hall, Westminster.

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# Ireland considers Commonwealth

**CLUB THEY ALL WANT TO JOIN**

**Nation will debate rejoining, Ahern tells Martin Fletcher on the eve of Tony Blair's historic visit to Dublin**

ON THE eve of Tony Blair's historic address to the Irish Parliament this morning, Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, has said that there will be a debate within Ireland about rejoining the Commonwealth. With the long cold war between Britain and Ireland now over, Mr Ahern said that members of his Fianna Fail party had raised the question of rejoining and "it will be an issue that will be debated over time".

Ireland left the Commonwealth when it became a republic in 1949. Advocates say that rejoining would confirm the new partnership between London and Dublin, and send a positive signal to Northern Ireland's Unionists.

Mr Ahern said that the Commonwealth, with its imperialistic origins, was still viewed with suspicion but "it's a very different thing now than it was 50 years ago". He would not argue against rejoining, and "I certainly won't be suppressing the debate".

Mr Blair will be the first non-head of state from any country to address the Irish Parliament. Interviewed in his parlour office in Dublin's Government Buildings, Mr Ahern recalled a meeting of British and Irish dignitaries during Baroness Thatcher's premiership when relations were so fraught that "if someone had dropped a bottle there would have been fighting in the room".

He said that, only five years ago, the controversy surrounding such an address would

have been "unimaginable", but on this occasion he had not received a single letter of protest. The invitation was a "tribute" to Mr Blair's "huge commitment" to resolving the problem of Northern Ireland that has bedevilled Anglo-Irish relations for three quarters of a century. None of the Prime Minister's predecessors could have secured the Good Friday peace accord, and he was "coming here as a genuine friend from a friendly nation".

But Mr Ahern dismissed speculation that the address would be followed quickly by the first state visit by a reigning British monarch since 1911, when Ireland was still under British rule. He said that the Queen wanted to come, but not until the accord was "bedded down" and Northern Ireland's new institutions were fully functioning. That would not be before mid-2000 at the earliest, and perhaps another year after that.

"It would be entirely wrong to have the Queen enmeshed in controversy," he said. "When it happens, it should be done with all the occasion that it deserves."

Mr Ahern also signalled his readiness to put intense pressure on Sinn Fein and the IRA if the republican movement continued to breach the spirit of the accord by refusing to disarm.

London and Dublin were honouring their commitments. Prisoners were being released. "We always understood that, if we got this far, there would be decommission-



Bertie Ahern: he said that Tony Blair was coming to address the Irish Parliament as "a genuine friend from a friendly nation"

ing," he said. Agreement was now close on the size of the new power-sharing executive and the merits of the new north-south bodies. At that point "we can say to Sinn Fein... it's ten months on and everybody else has done A, B, C and D and done 95 per cent and you have done nothing."

he said. "I do think that puts the pressure on them. Certainly I won't be stalling about putting the pressure back on them. We need some clear message or signal that all of this is getting us somewhere."

Mr Ahern said that David Trimble, the First Minister, had also breached the accord by refusing to set up the executive without pre-conditions. "Everybody is guilty," he said. But he accepted that, for political reasons, Mr Trimble could not move without progress on decommissioning. He also accepted that Gerry Adams could not deliver IRA disarmament, but insisted that "he and

his colleagues have to keep acting as persuaders". Mr Ahern dismissed reports that the IRA held a special army convention to discuss decommissioning last weekend. He also downplayed his own assertion on Sunday that Ireland would be united in his lifetime. He was speaking as a

party leader at his party's conference, not as Taoiseach, and expressing his own long-term aspirations, just as Mr Blair had stated that reunification would not occur within his lifetime. The important thing was to see the accord fully implemented and "let the future take care of itself".

AN APPLICATION by Ireland to rejoin the Commonwealth would be the latest and most dramatic signal that the club of countries once ruled by Britain exerts an increasingly powerful attraction (Michael Binyon writes). There are now 54 members — a record — of one of the world's largest and most diverse bodies, which cuts across political, economic, geographic and religious groupings.

Informal discussions on Irish membership began about three years ago. Only three countries that were once part of the British Empire have remained outside the Commonwealth: Ireland, which left in 1949; Burma, which decided not to join on independence; and Aden, which has since become one country with Yemen.

The end of apartheid signalled a renaissance for the Commonwealth. Pakistan, which quit over the acceptance of Bangladesh, had already rejoined. Fiji, which left in the wake of the political upheaval and promulgation of a new constitution, has just been accepted back. Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, was admitted as a special exception in 1995 — on condition that it improved the teaching of English — largely at the urging of President Mandela and because all its neighbours were members. And Cameroon, whose southern part was once a British mandate, was also admitted in 1995. Yemen made a formal application at the Edinburgh summit last year, and Yasser Arafat also lobbied for Palestinian membership on the basis of British rule during the 30-year mandate until 1948.

The Commonwealth provides an easy network for countless academic, political and economic exchanges.

## IRA men who killed soldiers to be freed

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



Father Reid was filmed giving the two murdered British soldiers the last rites

TWO IRA men convicted of murdering two British soldiers who drove into the path of a republican funeral in West Belfast are to be freed from the Maze prison today or tomorrow.

Alex Murphy and Henry Maguire were sentenced to life for their parts in the mob attack and subsequent killing of Corporals David Howes and Derek Wood in March 1988. The murders were among the most shocking of the Troubles because television crews filmed the attack and an army helicop-

ter filmed the shootings. Northern Ireland's Lord Chief Justice described the killings as "particularly savage and vicious". Murphy and Maguire blew kisses to relatives as they were led out of the courtroom.

It is believed that news of their release leaked out because a party is being planned for them at a republican ex-prisoners club in the Falls Road. The murders completed a two-week sequence of killings that began when the SAS shot three IRA activists on a

mission in Gibraltar. A loyalist named Michael Stone threw grenades and opened fire at their funerals in the Milltown cemetery, killing three mourners including an IRA man, Kevin Brady.

Three days later, with tensions high, the two Signals Regiment corporals in plain clothes inadvertently drove into the path of Brady's funeral cortege. They tried to reverse, but a taxi blocked their route. An incensed mob dragged them from their car, stripped them and beat them. Murphy and Maguire then

took them to waste ground where they were repeatedly shot by two other gunmen.

Father Alex Reid, a well-known Redemptorist priest, was filmed on his knees administering the last rites. "Our parish is seen as dripping in the blood of the murders," he said.

To date, 210 loyalist and republican terrorists have been freed from the Maze and Maghaberry prisons without any paramilitary guns or Semtex having been decommissioned.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Officers 'ignored' woman

A police officer has been "required to resign" and another fined £1,000 after a woman complained that they did not take her seriously when she told them that her husband had attacked her.

The Police Complaints Authority decided that the two South Wales police officers should face charges of neglect of duty after an inquiry into allegations made two years ago. Both officers have the right to appeal. Julie Bindel, of Leeds Metropolitan University's research centre on violence, hailed the outcome as a "landmark" for all women.

#### Military hold-up

A military exercise has been cancelled after more than 75 soldiers of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were taken ill after sleeping in a hangar at a Wiltshire airfield. It is thought they may have been affected by cleaning fluids or aviation fuel.

#### Sun in their eyes

Solar-powered car's eyes that emit a beam of light visible to drivers 900 yards away are to be laid in roads in Wakefield, Yorkshire, by January, followed by Worcester. The studs, which cost £1,680 a mile to install, are intended to improve safety at accident blackspots.

#### Home helps

Villagers in Claverdon, Warwickshire, have rallied to help Jean Harlow, 46, who was left homeless when fire destroyed her home on Boxing Day, 1996. She has been given the keys to a cottage built by volunteers after an appeal raised the money for materials.

#### Age-old question

Jack Smedley, 80, had to get a letter from his mother, 101, to verify his age to let him take part in a veteran's angling competition. Mr Smedley, from Hull, entered a contest exclusively for octogenarians — but couldn't remember if he was born in 1917, 1918 or 1919.

## The case of the deadly snow

By IAN MURRAY

A MIX between snow and hail increases the risk of a skier being struck by lightning, researchers have discovered.

Snow pellets known as graupel — a mixture of ice crystals, supercooled cloud droplets and larger ice particles — are

smaller and more spongy than hail, and form a potent environment for the dispersal of an electric charge, says the Lightning Data Center at Denver, Colorado.

A man aged 38 was hit by a bolt as he got off a ski lift when graupel was falling. He had a heart attack and died. In an-

other case, a ski patrol officer was knocked unconscious. He recovered.

Researchers say that people on the slopes should seek shelter when graupel falls. Winter lightning may be rare but it is hard to forecast and the electrical power is often more damaging than in summer.



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# Russia plagued by fatal wife-beatings

AS MANY as 14,000 Russian women a year are killed as a result of domestic violence, delegates told a joint United States-Russian conference in Moscow on family disputes.

It is a similar figure to the total of Russian lives lost during the ten-year war in Afghanistan. Interior Ministry figures given to the United Nations show that four fifths of violent crime in the country can be attributed to domestic violence and statistics suggest that a third of all murders are committed by husbands killing their wives.

Only 3 per cent of violent crimes committed in the home are reported to the police and domestic disputes are still regarded by the authorities as a private matter between husband and wife. An article in *Komsomolskaya Pravda* recently reported that help-lines for battered women were dealing with five to six times more calls than usual since the beginning of the Russian economic crisis in August, indicating that financial difficulties can aggravate already difficult domestic situations.

The problem, according to Yekaterina Lakhov, a Duma deputy and chairman of the Women of Russia group, is that in Russia "the mentality is founded on the principle that to beat your wife means you love her".

Maria Arbatova, the country's most prominent feminist, works as a counsellor to battered women and says that

**Anna Blundy reports from Moscow on a tide of domestic violence worsened by the economic chaos**

many of them come to her with a black eye and together they work out a plan for the woman to leave her attacker. "Then she disappears for a month and comes back with far more serious injuries," Ms Arbatova says. "When I ask why she didn't leave him, she tells me he begged for forgiveness, said he only hit her because he loved her and that he

bought her a fur coat. They also say sex is much better after a row." Ms Arbatova believes that wife-beating is strongly ingrained in the social structure. "It's part of Russian culture," she says.

The police agree that the domestic violence reported to them is usually of the kind impossible to conceal, that resulting in death or extremely seri-

ous injury; but the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* report suggests that three quarters of Russian men have hit their wives at least once and that four million women are being battered regularly.

One of them, Yulya, called the Anna helpline three months ago after a decade of persistent abuse.

"My husband would get drunk and violent and I had to barricade myself in the bedroom with the children so he wouldn't kill us," she says. "Often I couldn't go out because of my bruises and I had to keep the children away from school. Eventually he started threatening to kill us and I believed him. That's when I phoned for help."

Although few women report domestic violence to the police, there are 15 statutes under which abusive husbands can be imprisoned.

Larisa Basova, a counsellor and psychologist for the Sisters helpline, says that many of her callers are the wives of rich men, virtually imprisoned and systematically tyrannised by their husbands. Ms Basova says that the situation is not improving and that the figure of 14,000 deaths a year has remained stable for more than a decade.

"In Russia it is harder to leave your partner because for many there is nowhere to go," she says. "Often it is easier to kill your wife than to find two separate flats."

## Binges blamed for rise in death rates

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

IBINGE drinking has played a major role in a steep rise of deaths in Russia since the early 1990s, especially among men aged between 35 and 49.

Research on daily death rates of Muscovites between 1993 and 1995 shows that deaths from alcohol poisoning, accidents, violence and heart disease have risen significantly on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, compared with the rest of the week.

The study, which is published today in the *Journal of*

*Epidemiology and Community Health*, found that there were 10 per cent fewer deaths from heart disease on Tuesdays than would be expected among men aged 35 to 39, but 15 per cent more on Saturdays, consistent with drinking patterns in Russia.

The authors, from the European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition, based at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, says that the only logical explanation for the pattern of deaths is alcohol abuse.



Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain, watches a polo match in Lahore with his wife Jemima and their son Salman. He accused the Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, of "using Islam for personal gain".

## IMF throws \$5.5bn lifeline to Pakistan

Islamabad: The International Monetary Fund yesterday agreed to rescue Pakistan's shattered economy from default, granting a \$5.5 billion (£3.3 billion) bailout package, finance officials said.

Pakistan's economy has been blighted by international sanctions after its nuclear tests in May, and owed \$32 billion to international creditors.

The biggest hurdle to the bail-out package was removed earlier this month when America agreed to support a one-time deal for Pakistan. The US imposed sanctions on Pakistan and India after they conducted underground nuclear tests in May. The embargo hit Pakistan especially hard because it relied heavily on foreign loans and had meagre reserves of

hard currency to pay for imports. President Clinton lifted some of the sanctions earlier this month.

The bailout package for Pakistan has a number of conditions, including banking and tax reform and a provision to try to reduce corruption. The deal will require final approval from the IMF board of directors in Washington next month. (AP)

## British firms 'penalised' by failure to join euro

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH interests in Europe are being damaged by a "sterile debate" on the single currency and the business world is being penalised by British failure to grasp the inevitability of monetary union, the European Commissioner for Monetary Union will say today.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the French Commissioner responsible for the euro, will deliver his blunt warning to a French audience in London after a week that has seen further European Union moves towards deeper integration, including harmonised taxes.

The Commission also sought yesterday to calm British fears over a future common tax policy, but acknowledged that the arrival of the euro in January would bring further pressure in the Union for harmonisation.

In similar vein, Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that

the top priority was to turn the EU into a single political state.

M de Silguy is to break with the Commission's usual delicacy towards British sensitivities when he addresses the French Chamber of Commerce. "The debate in the UK has always underestimated the momentum behind economic and monetary union," he will say. "Once a rocket is launched, there is no going back."

"Those in the UK who tried to prevent other member states from pressing ahead have simply damaged Britain's image in the EU. And this sterile debate has undoubtedly held back some business preparations in the UK."

Similar views have been voiced by Sir Leon Brittan, the Vice-President of the Commission and a pro-euro Tory. But, coming from a non-British Commissioner, M de Silguy's forthright words reflect confidence in Brussels that Britain

has no alternative but to join the currency, due for launch in five weeks' time.

The euro's launch was recognised yesterday by Mario Monti, the Tax Commissioner, as a likely spur for further moves to harmonising taxes. The Commission was keen not to go beyond present projects for eliminating "harmful" practices in business taxation and for ensuring the taxation of cross-border income from savings, Signor Monti said.

Germany's Social Democratic Government has set tax harmony as a high priority for its presidency of the EU, which begins in January.

In Germany, Herr Fischer, said: "Just as we worked together on the first real transfer of sovereignty in the field of currencies, we ought to work on a common constitution to turn the European Union into an entity under international law... that is my goal."

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LOWEST ON TUESDAYS

# US alarmed as Mujahidin join Kosovo rebels

MUJAHIDIN fighters have joined the Kosovo Liberation Army, dimming prospects of a peaceful solution to the conflict and fuelling fears of heightened violence next spring.

The Islamic fighters created havoc in the war in Bosnia, where they were regarded as a serious threat to Western peacekeeping troops, especially Americans. Their arrival in Kosovo may force Washington to review its policy in the Serbian province and will deepen Western dismay with the KLA and its tactics.

For the Albanians, the Mujahidin represent a public relations disaster: for President Milosevic of Serbia, they are a propaganda coup, enabling his regime to portray the struggle in Kosovo as a form of holy war in which the Serbs are Europe's bulwark against Islam. Although there are only a few dozen Mujahidin, the bearded young fighters, re-



The arrival of Islamic fighters among the KLA augurs badly for a Balkans peace, reports Tom Walker in Malisevo

splendent in brand-new KLA uniforms, are a startling sight in the snowbound villages of central Kosovo.

On an icy track near a KLA command centre yesterday, they loomed out of the mist on a trailer pulled by a tractor churning through the snowdrifts with snow chains, before they vanished again towards bases the KLA is building near the strategic town of Malisevo.

The local KLA commander, "Captain Dula", was clearly embarrassed at the unexpected presence of foreign journalists and said that he had little idea who was sending the Mujahidin or where they came

from; only that it was neither Kosovo nor Albania. "I've got no information about them," Captain Dula said. "We don't talk about it."

His comments exposed the factionalism of a guerrilla army with little overall interest in religious issues. Captain Dula, the brother of the village imam, said that he had no idea whether he was a Shia or Sunni Muslim. "You'll have to ask my brother about it," he said, erupting in laughter.

American diplomats in the region, especially Robert Gelbard, the special envoy, have often expressed their fears of an Islamic hardline infiltra-



Ethnic Albanian boys build snowmen at their ruined school in Lausa, Kosovo. A year ago a teacher there was killed by random Serb gunfire

tion into the Kosovo independence movement. But until now there has been little evidence of Mujahidin fighters. The Serbs have displayed a few passports and identity papers they say that they found after

their offensives near the Albanian border in the summer, and members of an indigenous Kosovan Mujahidin group were arrested in mosques around the industrial town of Mitrovica. The Yu-

goslav Army also exhibited Korans it said it had found hidden among arms smuggled across the border.

American intelligence has raised the possibility of a link between Osama bin Laden,

the Saudi expatriate blamed for the bombing in August of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, and the KLA. Several of Bin Laden's supporters were arrested in Tirana, the Albanian capital, and deported this summer, and the chaotic conditions in the country have allowed Muslim extremists to settle there, often under the guise of humanitarian workers. In Kosovo, US diplomatic observers are living in villages harbouring the Mujahidin, seemingly a recipe for disaster.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe may have to rethink its deployment of US "verifiers" over the

coming months. It is thought most likely that Kosovo's Mujahidin will have come via Bosnia, where many settled in rural areas after the war. Several groups are also held in Zenica prison by the Bosnian Government, which is anxious to distance itself from accusations of radical Islamic sympathies.

"I interviewed one guy from Saudi Arabia who said that it was his eighth jihad," a Dutch journalist said.

□ Pristina: Serb police killed a KLA guerrilla yesterday while repelling an attack by armed rebels near the southwestern Kosovan town of Djakovica, the Serb Media Centre said. (AP)



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## UN chief hints at deal on Lockerbie

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK



Annan: may detour to Libya on African trip

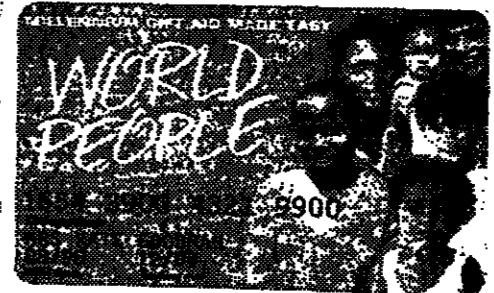
KOFI ANNAN, the United Nations Secretary-General, is considering a detour to Libya during a trip to North Africa next week to secure the surrender of the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing.

Hinting at a possible breakthrough, Mr Annan said yesterday: "I will be in the region next week, and the question has been raised if it will be helpful for me to go down there and bring the issue finally to closure. I have not made up my mind yet, but it's not excluded." The Secretary-General will be in Algeria on December 1-2 and in Tunisia on the following two days, and is reportedly considering a meeting with Libyan officials on

the Libyan-Tunisian border. His comments came after several rounds of discussions between Libyan lawyers and UN officials about the surrender of the two suspects to stand trial for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland.

"We have had a very constructive discussion with Libyan lawyers and mine," he said. "I think we have offered most of the clarifications and I had hoped we would be able to bring the issue to closure by the end of November. We are still pressing for that."

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# Jiang hopes his Japan visit will end 50-year rift

THE President of China, the first leader of the country to visit Japan since the Second World War, arrived in Tokyo yesterday seeking to heal half a century of mistrust between the two Asian powers.

He was also expecting an apology from Tokyo for the wartime atrocities committed by Japanese forces in occupied China. Last month, Japan apologised to South Korea's visiting President for crimes inflicted during Japan's 1910-45 colonisation of its Korean neighbour, and President Jiang Zemin of China is hoping for a similar act of contrition in talks starting in Tokyo. He is also likely to issue a tough warning against "meddling" in Taiwan by Japan and the United States.

An apology to Mr Jiang, which is still being debated, would be a far more significant gesture than Tokyo's expression of repentance and apology to South Korea's President Kim last month because a fast-growing China is now a rival to Japanese power in Asia. Nowadays the two nations are important trading partners, with last year's commerce between them worth \$63.8 billion (£38.4 billion).

It was at the Marco Polo Bridge just outside Beijing that Japanese troops attacked Chinese forces in 1937 before occupying large parts of the country until the end of the Second World War. Elderly resi-

## War memories bedevil relations between Tokyo and Beijing, says James Pringle

dents of the area speak in quiet horror of what many see as the true start of the wider world war. They recall that Japanese troops tested chemical and biological weapons on Chinese civilians, beheaded suspected resistance fighters, bayoneted babies and starved millions. Perhaps as many as 20 million Chinese died during the war.

But it was the Rape of Nanking, in which an estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were murdered and thousands of women sexually assaulted, that seemed for years to define Sino-Japanese relations. There is strong distaste in China over the alleged playing-down of these matters in Japanese school textbooks.

Ordinary Chinese still refer to the Japanese as "devils" and even Chinese officials, shedding diplomatic language, do little to hide their distaste for Japan. They often say that the Japanese have not shown repentance for the atrocities committed in China, whereas, they say, the Germans have apologised for their war actions.

apology for wartime brutality could help to point the way forward for the two Asian nations whose relationship will set the tone for the continent's development in the 21st century. "This is a most significant visit," a Beijing-based foreign diplomat said. "So much in east Asia is riding on the result."

Japan's economy may be ailing, but it remains the region's largest. Nevertheless, it is Japan's close security relationship with the United States that most worries China. The presence of the US Seventh Fleet in Okinawa and Japan's close ties with Taiwan, which is its former colony but which Beijing regards as a rebel province, continue to anger the Chinese, who fear that Taiwan could be defended under the terms of a defence agreement between Japan and the US.

A Japan-American missile defence umbrella, which has been mooted, would also undermine China's strategy, which is built on effective missiles as a main defence weapon because the Chinese Navy is regarded as weak.

In meetings today with Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister, Mr Jiang will press Japan for a promise that Tokyo will not back Taiwanese independence or a one-China, one-Taiwan policy and that it will not help the island to join the United Nations or other international organisations that require statehood of their members.



Pat Rousseau, the West Indies Cricket Board president, who was held up with his wife by gunmen

# West Indies cricket chief robbed on Soweto visit

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE president of the West Indies Cricket Board and his wife were held up at gunpoint yesterday by a gang of men who hijacked their car in Soweto township outside Johannesburg, less than 24 hours after their arrival in South Africa. The couple were unhurt but left badly shaken on the eve of the first Test in a five-match series beginning in Johannesburg today between South Africa and the West Indies, making their first official tour of the country.

Pat and Esther Rousseau, accompanied by a South African cricket official and a West Indian cricket writer, drove to the township to look at facilities for young black cricketers. They were walking back to their car outside the Soweto Oval, where Brian Lara's side played their first tour game two weeks ago, when three young men confronted them with pistols.

Mr Rousseau said: "They forced us to lie on the ground and went through our pockets and ripped off our watches. They snatched my wife's handbag which contained our documents and credit cards as well as cash." The gunmen then jumped into the car and sped off.

According to police statistics given to parliament earlier this month, there were 1,198 cases of car hijacking in the Johannesburg area between January and June this year, an increase of 113 per cent over the previous six months.

Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, said: "Naturally, Mr Rousseau and his wife are very distressed, but his enthusiasm for the tour has in no way diminished."

Doctors at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto plan to demonstrate today about the crime wave. Dr Mark Hobley said: "I was in the patients' reception area last week when a young man levelled a gun at me and robbed me of my cellphone and diary... some nursing staff and doctors have even been accosted at bedsides while attending to patients."

Match preview, page 48

# Britain could face lawsuit for PoW 'betrayal' in deal with Tokyo

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

FORMER POWs of the Japanese may turn their fire against the British Government if a Tokyo court rejects their claim for compensation.

Martyr Day, a lawyer acting for British POWs and civilian internees, gave a warning yesterday of possible legal action against the Government for Britain's failure to fulfil its obligation to obtain proper compensation for their sufferings in Japanese prison camps.

Former prisoners who are gath-

ered in Japan, including Arthur Titherington, head of the Japan Labour Camp Survivors Association, last night met lawyers to discuss their next move if the Tokyo district court rejects their demand for an apology and £13,300 compensation for each detainee.

In recent months, Japanese courts hearing lawsuits brought by former sex slaves of the Imperial Army have upheld Japan's position that all compensation claims were settled at government level under the 1951 San Francisco peace agreements. "If the judgment goes

against us, we will almost certainly appeal," said Mr Day. But the POWs also planned to put the British Government in the dock for neglecting to take action to secure compensation nearly five decades ago.

Under the peace treaty with Japan, Britain's POWs received token sums amounting, in most cases, to little more than £70. Though the Blair Government has lent a sympathetic ear to the POWs, it adheres to the line of its predecessors that the veterans' claims cannot be pursued because Britain accepted final terms from Japan in the 1950s.

But earlier this year British POWs were angered to discover evidence of a deception hushed up for the past 43 years. Official records unearthed by the Association of British Civilian Internees show that the Foreign Office in 1955 advised against pressing for higher levels of compensation, though it was entitled to do so under a peace treaty provision.

The result was that the terms for British veterans were much worse than those obtained by nationals of some other countries.

Despite its legal entitlement, Britain made a decision to waive further

claims against Japan, but kept quiet to avoid political embarrassment. "No publicity should be given to this decision," said a Foreign Office memorandum dated September 19, 1955. "Successive governments purposely hid this information from us," said Keith Martin, a plaintiff representing civilian internees in the Tokyo lawsuit, and the man who dug out the documents in the Public Records Office.

Mr Day said the discovery of this British "betrayal" had reinforced the feeling that the POWs should pursue legal action against the British

Government. For more than three years, the plaintiffs had taken the view that "Japan caused the problem, so Japan should pay," he said. But the focus of anger had gradually changed.

"In the last few months in Britain there has been a great feeling of anger at being let down by successive governments, and by this (current) one, too."

Representatives of PoW groups are due to meet Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, in January. "We'll be looking for serious government action," Mr Day said.



Titherington: testified on prison camp conditions

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# Bonn resists call for extradition of rebel Kurd

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY, nervous that the Kurdish war for independence would spread to its soil, yesterday resisted pressure from the US and Italy to submit an extradition request for the rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan.

any or Italy. That move also added to the diplomatic pressure on Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor. "Ideally we want him to be prosecuted and punished in Turkey," said a Turkish spokesman. "But if this does not happen, he should be prosecuted under international law and punished in a third country such as Italy or Germany."

many. Kurdish terrorists "would certainly use violence to free him from jail". Mr Ocalan leads the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) which was banned in 1993. It is capable of mobilising at least 30,000 supporters out of the half a million Kurds who are living in Germany, say the anti-terrorist specialists.



Italy's attitude to Ocalan's presence in the country, as seen by Ammer in the Austrian Wiener Zeitung

## Ankara leadership falls in 'mafia' vote

Ankara: The Turkish Government was toppled yesterday by a parliamentary no-confidence vote that implicitly accused Mesut Yilmaz, the Prime Minister, of links with organised crime.

due to begin talks with party leaders last night. "Everyone can rest assured that Turkey will not be left without a government," the President said before the parliamentary vote.

□ Rome: The PKK was prepared to seek peace just as Eta had done in Spain and the IRA in Northern Ireland, Mr Ocalan declared yesterday in a statement. He made a peace proposal, based on the creation of a Kurdish state that would "not breach Turkey's territorial integrity". (AFP)

## Tax row widens rift in SPD

THE first meeting in Berlin of Gerhard Schröder's Cabinet was overshadowed yesterday by a power struggle over economic policy that has erupted between the reformists among the ruling Social Democrats and leftwingers represented by Germany's increasingly

controversial Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine. The government spokesman, Uwe Karsten Heye, insisted that the Chancellor would not back down on his plans to lower the four million unemployment rate by waiving income tax for the estimated six million who do low-paid so-called "DM 620" part-time jobs.

His announcement was expected to anger still further the majority of Social Democrat (SPD) Prime Ministers in charge of the 16 federal states who have complained that the plan will deprive them of badly needed revenue. They have been backed by Herr Lafontaine, who is opposed to the existence of low-paid jobs for ideological reasons.

## Paris has a fresh look at The Kiss

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A BRONZE cast of Auguste Rodin's famous statue, *The Kiss*, which was stolen by the Nazis and never reclaimed after the Second World War, was put on permanent display in the Tuileries Gardens in Paris yesterday in the hope that its owners might come forward.

The cast, one of several by the artist, has been out of the public eye for at least three decades. It was initially kept in a storeroom before being transferred to the private back garden of the Hôtel Mâtignon, the residence of the French Prime Minister.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, "believes displaying the statue in a prominent place increases the chances that it will be claimed by its rightful owners or their heirs", said Alain Kirili, the French sculptor behind the Tuileries Sculpture Project.

Thousands of works of art pillaged by the Nazis were never reclaimed after the war, in many cases because their Jewish owners died in the gas chambers.

Rodin's *The Kiss* is number 25 on the French list of 2,000 unclaimed artworks.



Rodin's bronze cast of *The Kiss*, which will be displayed in the Tuileries Gardens

## Pimping defendant 'is a sex maniac'

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE Paris trial of four people accused of organising a high-class prostitution network closed yesterday, after prosecutors demanded a six-year sentence for the alleged leader.

"You are a sex maniac. It is you who let this get out of hand," prosecutor Pascal Le Fur told Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, the soft-porn photographer accused of luring young women into the call-girl ring.

M Bourgeois, 51, allegedly recruited 89 women, some of them minors, into the prostitution network catering for wealthy international businessmen and figures from the entertainment industry.

M Le Fur asked for lesser sentences against Nazih al-Ladki, a Lebanese businessman and former secretary to the Saudi Royal Family, and two Swedish citizens who allegedly played roles as middlemen. M Bourgeois has denied pimping, but prosecutors said that he specifically targeted "naive young girls" and lured them by implying that he could arrange careers for them in modelling or acting.

Hackney ordered to end race bias

By Alexandra Fern... A COUNCIL was given three weeks to end discrimination against black and Asian residents in Hackney...

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# Good news for palsy sufferers



**Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on Parkinson's disease; arthritis; pre-eclampsia; flu jabs; and new drugs for Alzheimer's**

**A**s Dr James Parkinson sat in his Hoxton surgery in the East End of London, his attention must have strayed from the patients consulting him and was attracted instead to the gait of an elderly man who regularly walked past his window. The unknown man had all the signs and symptoms of the "shaking palsy" which Dr Parkinson was to write up in a now famous pamphlet in 1817.

Whereas Dr Parkinson had to peer out of his window to study his case of the shaking palsy, we can all now see instances on television. The Pope has a classic slow shake, particularly of his right arm and hand, together with an impassive face. Billy Graham, at the other end of the religious spectrum, also suffers from Parkinson's, and when the late Enoch Powell broadcast in his later years he had the easily recognisable facial expression and voice of a sufferer.

It is impossible to predict accurately who will develop Parkinson's disease. It is not uncommon for patients to have had relatives who have also suffered from the disease, but there is no obvious pattern of inheritance. Parkinson's disease is the result of degeneration of the nerve cells in the basal ganglia, a part of the brain. These nerve cells control the smoothness of muscular movements. The main neurotransmitter — chemical messenger — in the basal ganglia is dopamine. When the degenerative condition has resulted in a reduction of 80 per cent of the dopamine production, the patient develops the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

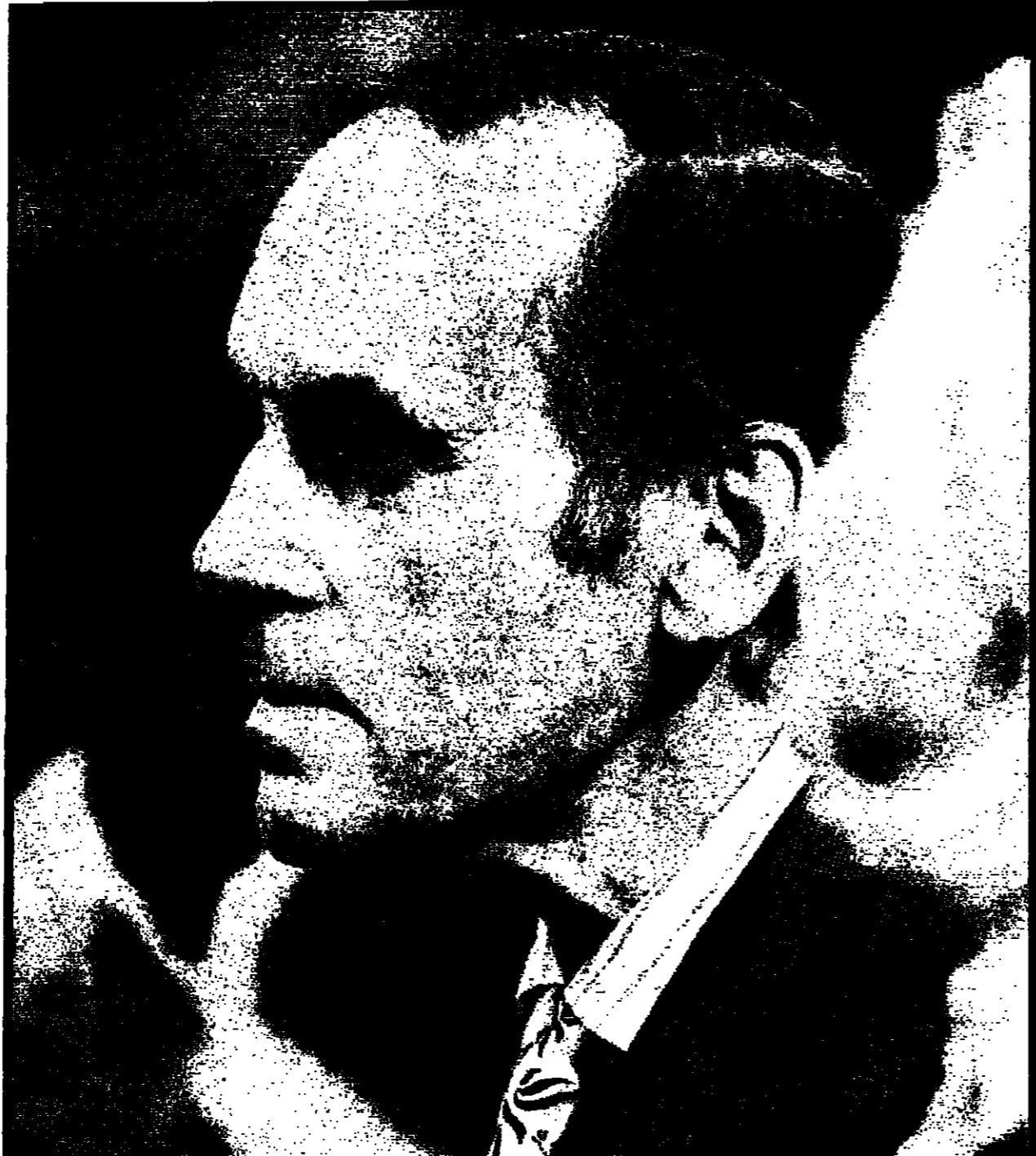
Before treatment was available with levodopa, which is converted to dopamine, the outlook for patients was very poor. Its introduction has revolutionised life for patients with Parkinson's as it treats all three of the main symptoms. Levodopa is usually given com-

binced with a decarboxylase inhibitor, which improves its availability to the brain cells. Treatment starts when the symptoms interfere with the patient's lifestyle. The usefulness of levodopa, which is sometimes held in reserve, wears off after a few years, particularly as its side-effects tend to become more obvious with the passage of time. Fortunately, there are a variety of other drugs available.

In 1996 two new dopamine agonists, Requip (ropinirole) and Cabaser (cabergoline) were launched. These stimulate parts of the brain where dopamine works. Sometimes they are taken alone but in other cases may be used in conjunction with levodopa. Ropinirole may be used either in people with quite mild Parkinson's disease or in those who have had it for some time. Cabergoline is taken in tablet

form with food, it doesn't react adversely with other drugs and is used in conjunction with levodopa. It is not given at the same time as other dopamine agonists. Its longer duration than other dopamine agonists and once-daily administration make it a valuable addition to the armory.

Selegiline has been used together with levodopa for many years but there has been some anxiety that it may increase mortality. Recently a preparation, Zelapar, has been introduced which, it is hoped, overcomes any adverse effects on the cardiovascular system. It melts quickly on the tongue so that the active drug is absorbed through the mouth. This enables the dose to be cut by seven-eighths and at the same time avoids the problems of pill-swallowing, sometimes difficult for patients with Parkinson's disease.



The former Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe, who has Parkinson's disease, at the Liberal Democrat Conference in September

**Levodopa has made huge changes to those with Parkinson's**

are 120,000 people with it in the UK and four million in the world; poor Dr Parkinson is remembered only by the disease he named and he doesn't warrant a mention in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The classic signs of Parkinson's disease are a slow shake, rigidity in the joints and a slowness of all muscular movements. Additionally, the patients develop a characteristic shuffling walk which in its advanced stages is of a very uneven pace. Many patients with Parkinson's disease become depressed. A smaller number suffer from an appreciable loss of intellect but the numbers who are affected in this way are fewer than would be supposed. The involvement of the facial muscles results in an expres-

## How to get the arthritic mix right

TWENTY million prescriptions are issued annually in the UK to treat inflammatory conditions, usually but not exclusively, diseases associated with different types of arthritis. Inevitably those patients who are likely to have painful, swollen arthritic joints will also be elderly, and not surprisingly nearly half of these drugs are for those over 65.

A large variety of anti-inflammatory drugs, such as Brufen, Nurofen (ibuprofen), Feldene (piroxicam), Voltarol (diclofenac), for instance, are available and are invaluable weapons in modern medical practice. Without them there would be untold misery for those whose sleep is ruined as the pain from inflamed joints wakes them, and makes many day-time occupations impossible.

The NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) are very sharp, double-edged therapeutic weapons. Most of the 20 million prescriptions achieve their objective, the 24-hour relief of pain, but 12,000 of these prescriptions bring disaster to patients. These are the people who need admission to hospital as the result of severe gastrointestinal bleeding, or who collapse from a perforated ulcer. In 2,000 cases the patients die. Those who succumb are usually elderly, or have had pre-existing gastrointestinal or cardiovascular disease, but these complications can afflict all age groups. Calamity can strike without warning. Someone may have taken an NSAID for years safely before suddenly having a bleed from their stomach or intestine.

The search has been on to find a way of achieving the advantages of the anti-inflammatory drugs without their dangers. The mixing of diclofenac (Voltarol) with

**In all age groups calamity can strike without warning**

an ingredient to protect the gut wall — misoprostol — has reduced the incidence of gastrointestinal side-effects but not eliminated them. Another approach has been to look for a drug that will inhibit COX 2, but leave COX 1 uninhibited. COX 2 is an enzyme which produces the prostaglandins that lead to pain and inflammation and make the joints so agonising. Conversely, COX 1 makes the prostaglandins that protect the gastrointestinal system and helps to maintain a normal kidney function and healthy platelets — small particles in the blood essential for clotting.

At a recent meeting of American rheumatologists the results of trials of a new anti-rheumatic drug, Celebrex (celecoxib), were reported. It is a COX 2 inhibitor which leaves COX 1 enzymes unaffected. The trials involved more than 14,000 patients between the ages of 16 and 90. Celebrex inhibited its action of COX 2 but spares COX 1. In this way the joint pain was relieved but the lining of the gastrointestinal system was left with its protective COX 1 enzymes. Celebrex was as effective in relieving pain in arthritis as two of the more commonly prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs but had a very much safer side-effect profile, similar to that of a placebo. It was found that when Celebrex was compared to one of the most powerful and most often prescribed NSAID drugs, the incidence of gastrointestinal symptoms was 33 per cent higher in those taking the long-standing preparation. The number of Celebrex-takers suffering ulceration was four times lower. Celebrex is likely to be available in America in January, later in the year in Europe.



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### Why mothers-to-be need to check their blood pressure

EVERY three years the Government issues a publication on the results of its confidential inquiries into death as a result of pregnancy or childbearing. The charity Apcc (Action on Pre-Eclampsia) has expressed concern because the death rate from pre-eclampsia was the same from 1994 to 1996 as it was from 1991 to 93. In each period 20 women in the UK died.

Pre-eclampsia, known as pre-eclamptic toxæmia (Pet) when I was a junior hospital doctor, affects about one pregnancy in ten. It creates problems with the mother's circulation, so that the blood pressure rises and protein appears in the urine. Usually it becomes manifest in the second half of a pregnancy, but it can appear immediately after the baby is



Pre-eclampsia causes babies to be smaller than usual

born. Not only is the mother at risk of having actual eclampsia — a possibly fatal fit — but pre-eclampsia restricts the birth of the baby. Every year it is thought to contribute to the deaths of 500 to 600 babies, and many others are born smaller than they should be. One reason why antenatal checks are so important is to detect pre-eclampsia. Boring as they may seem, any changes in the blood pressure, or in the urine, may be detected so that signs of pre-eclampsia are not missed, misdiagnosed or taken insufficiently seriously.

If pre-eclampsia is detected, the mother can be referred to a maternity unit where an experienced consultant's advice is available. Isabel Walker, the director of Apcc, says: "It is not uncommon for pre-eclampsia to be missed, sometimes with devastating consequences. Meanwhile, many health authorities are engaged in reducing the overall checks offered to women during pregnancy, thereby increasing the likelihood of inadequately treated pre-eclampsia."

### At risk? Have a flu jab

HELP the Aged reports that the number of people coming forward for their flu jab is considerably down this year on previous years. It describes take-up of the injection, offered free under present policies to all those aged over 75, as "alarmingly low". The belief is that the relatively mild autumn has discouraged people from coming forward. If harder weather coincided with a flu epidemic, the over-75s could be especially vulnerable. Government policy is to persuade all those aged over 75, together with those who have lung, heart or kidney disease, diabetes or weakened immune systems, and those who live in residential and care homes, to have annual immunisation.

Another possible reason advanced for the relative failure of the flu vaccination campaign is that general practitioners, confident in the benefit of the injection, are tending to offer it to all and sundry rather than targeting patients who are most at risk. It won't induce an attack of flu, although it may make a small number of people feel slightly unwell for a day or so.

### Controlling aggression

THOSE who care for many patients with advanced Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia can take comfort from the knowledge that the agitation and uneasy temper of those with these degenerative diseases are prompted by confusion. Few people could remain at peace with the world if they had little idea where they were, who was looking after them and why they were being asked to do whatever those nursing them demanded.

Sedatives can make the situation worse: sometimes a previously aggressive patient becomes amenable once some drugs have been withdrawn. Among the sedative prepara-

tions that have caused aggression are the older antipsychotic drugs. Recently, atypical antipsychotic drugs have been introduced that have far fewer side-effects than the old-style versions. Some 60 per cent of dementia patients with behavioural and psychological symptoms — including aggression, screaming attacks, wandering, delusions and hallucinations — need residential care. Two recent double-blind, multicentre placebo-controlled trials of an atypical neuroleptic, Risperdal (risperidone), have shown that those treated with it had significantly fewer problems from aggression than did those on a placebo. Risperdal was prescribed in low doses, 1mg a day, and didn't seem to impair the patient's ability, such as it was, to think and reason, nor did it often cause any sedation.

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**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

Yasmin Mills, pictured, reveals how society girls and pop stars are managing to party when pregnant in a very glamorous way. **Style, this Sunday**

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Our top critics select the best and brightest books for the festive season, in part one of a special Christmas guide.

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FOR: Lord Hoffman



The mature mum: Patricia Hodge became a parent at 41

Too old to be a mum? Never

My file had a red spot on it - red for danger. At the hospital they thought women like me were dangerous, not to mention stupid, ignorant, pathetic, selfish and a damn nuisance, because we were trying to buck our biology by having children too late. "Too late," as the doctors defined it, was over the age of 30. They called us "elderly, primagravidae", and they said that as mothers we were past our use-by date because our eggs were going off and our ovaries were shrivelling like prunes. If, against all odds, we managed to give birth at all, we were going to be too clapped out to look after our children. The official view was that nature intended women to have babies about the age of 20. Well, Pampers to that. Now it's official - older mothers are better. A study by the Parenthood Research Group at Leicester University has discovered that children born to women in their thirties and forties do better than those born to mothers in their twenties. Children of older mothers score better in tests of understanding and language development. The research director, Dr Julia Berryman, a psychologist, said the findings suggested that older parents spent more time talking to their children. All that stuff about older parents being too tired, stressed or career-oriented to play with their children also turned out to be rubbish. The amount of time each age group spent playing with their children was the same. Older mothers were ill less often than younger ones. Older fathers were a bit less energetic and more likely to sit down with their children to share a book or a computer game than to take them out for bike rides in the rain. The sample of 101 mothers in their twenties, thirties and forties, was balanced so that the home environments were similar. "There seemed to be no disadvantages for the children of mothers in their late thirties and forties - if anything, there are slight gains," concluded Dr Berryman. It's always nice when the experts tell you something you already know. Most mature mothers soon find out that biology is only part of the reality of parenthood. Up to now, we have kept mum because nobody ever listens to mothers, especially not childcare gurus. Instead, women have been copying their own research at the University of Life. They have discovered that there is a lot going for pot having babies at your biological prime. You can get your career up and running, earn your maternity leave and get a house sorted. The average age of a first-time mother now is nudging 30. Many famous women are becoming mothers even later, such as Madonna, Pamela Armstrong, Felicity Kendal and Patricia Hodge. Now there's a genetic heritage worth having. Older mothers in the news also include the heroine of the week, 38-year-old Marie Lord, from Devon, who got chatting to a stranger at a bus-stop, a younger woman whose 21-month-old son didn't look too well. Mrs Lord saw that the baby was limp and blue-grey in the face. She pulled up his T-shirt and found the telltale rash of dark spots caused by meningitis. Mrs Lord dropped her shopping, ran to the nearest payphone, "yanked" away a man making a call, hit 999 and asked for an ambulance. The baby was rushed to hospital just in time to save his life. A few minutes' delay and he would have died. The paramedics and the baby's mother paid tribute to Mrs Lord's quick thinking. Mrs Lord did more than think quickly, she was informed, she was experienced and she was confident enough to drag a man out of the phonebox. Information, experience and confidence are all the benefits of age, and modern parents need those qualities. Modern children need much more than jam sandwiches and clean socks to become competent adults. Parenting is skilled work. When I became a mother, at 35, I did so with no regrets. I had been to a lot of places, done a lot of things and got a lot of T-shirts - wild parties, wicked boyfriends, moonlit nights, backpacking, sleeping on the beach, all a girl could reasonably want to do. I had already done. Another mother in the news this week probably feels she missed out on good times because her family came along too early. Tracey Nolan went to Istanbul with her husband and their children. She fell for a Jordanian boutique owner, so-called, in a bar. Her husband went home. Tracey, stuck with Daniel, II, Jessica, ten, and Casey, nine, resolved her dilemma by putting the children in a taxi and giving the driver 75p to take them to the British Embassy. I asked my daughter, at 18 now, approaching her biological prime as well as her A levels, if she thought it was better for a child to have an older mother. "Of course," she said, "older mothers don't do stupid things." Spot on, sweetheart. And now they've proved it.

were chosen seniority availability

Women can change the world

Women are the real revolutionaries philosopher Theodore Zeldin tells Grace Bradberry

Theodore Zeldin lives in a house with no corners, high on a hill outside Oxford. A room at the top is furnished with nothing but an antique desk and a garden lounger. The floor is decorated with a "mural" depicting human history, painted by Zeldin himself. From the Thirties metal-framed windows, one can see across the maze which, as he puts it, "divides the grounds into different types of garden". Zeldin, historian, philosopher, contemporary thinker, is a man who loves gargantuan tasks: "I'm only interested in doing things that are difficult to do, and which no one else has done." When he told a professor at the Sorbonne that his graduate thesis would be on the political system of Napoleon III, the professor pro-

nounced this impossible. Zeldin wrote it anyway, and turned it into a book. Next he wrote a five-volume history of French passions. "It worried the editors. I called the first volume *Ambition, Love and Politics*. It was the first time anyone had dared to talk about love in an Oxford history." Zeldin has gone on to talk about emotions and relationships - subjects viewed askance by other scholars as "touchy-feely". "Horrible word," he says, in a dipped voice. "It is perfectly possible to talk about these things without falling into *nush*." An *Intimate History of Humanity*, his last work, examines feelings. Each chapter begins with a brief biography of a woman. And women are equally central to his new book, *Conversation*, half self-

improvement manual, half philosophy, and based on his Radio 4 lecture series. One learns to be suspicious of men who profess such interest in women's opinions - there is usually some ulterior motive. So when Zeldin remarks "I'm very interested by what women think, particularly young women, because it seems to me that they are the revolutionaries of our time", I suspect humbug. Yet Zeldin really believes that extraordinary social change is on its way, and that it will be led by women. "I feel I've identified a desire for moving away from what their lives are to something more exciting. This is coming about from men and women talking to each other." He then describes how a young woman sat on his Liberty-print sofa recently and told him that she had broken up with her boyfriend, a financial dealer, because they were "talking about different". Zeldin extracts from this scarcely unusual anecdote that "women are having trouble finding the partnership that will lead to changing the way the world moves". If conversations between a man and a woman have become central to Zeldin, that is perhaps because they have played such a transformative role in his own life. He was a child prodigy, the son of Russian Jewish émigrés in Israel. His father worked as an engineer in the British Colonial Service, his mother as a dentist, and although Zeldin was born on Mount Carmel in Israel, he was educated in Egypt. At three he could read, and he was always placed three or four years ahead of his peers at school. "I was very keen on athletics and was in the English schoolboy championships, so I didn't lead a totally solitary bookworm's life," he says. "But no, I don't think I was a very sociable child. I was a bit weird, no doubt." The family moved to England and, at 15, Zeldin entered Birkbeck College. How did he make friends? "I didn't. I had one, actually, a woman of about 25. I was a solitary person and I've changed a lot. I've spent a long time in libraries and lived my life backwards in some ways. It took me some time to become young." As a young man he was "totally absorbed" by the acquisition of knowledge from books. "There seemed to be no limit to how much I could discover." Later, however, he realised that some things could be discovered only from other people - in particular from his wife, the academic Deirdre Wilson, whom he met as a bachelor don at St Antony's



Theodore Zeldin, historian, philosopher, contemporary thinker: "I'm only interested in doing things that are difficult to do, and which no one else has done"

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# The right ruling for humanity

### Michael Byers applauds the victory of people over Pinochet

Yesterday was General Pinochet's 83rd birthday. But it was also a birthday for international human rights. 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the declaration details the obligations owed to individuals by states and state officials under international law. However, the declaration, and subsequent international human rights treaties, failed to provide any effective, generally available enforcement mechanisms. This meant many victims of serious human rights abuses were left with little more than empty words — weak protection in the face of military dictators.

Yesterday's House of Lords judgment is of fundamental importance. It signals that the most basic human rights are enforceable anywhere, on behalf of any victim, against anyone. The judgment thus represents a sea-change for the international legal order. During the past 50 years our conception of the character of the international community — its members, their interests and rights — has been transformed. The British Government has recognised this transformation, in 1988 it adopted legislation which allows those who commit torture abroad to be prosecuted in the United Kingdom or extradited elsewhere. This past summer in Rome it strongly supported the creation of an International Criminal Court. Consistent with these developments in international and national law, the Lords has sent a signal to other national courts that they should play their part in enforcing the most fundamental of human rights — through assertions of universal jurisdiction.

criminal or civil process. It was upon this arcane vision that General Pinochet relied and prevailed in the divisional court. Traditional international law has changed profoundly since the Second World War. An alternative world has evolved which posits that the international community comprises not only states but other individuals, peoples, non-governmental organisations, corporations and so on. These have emerged as international actors engaged in international discourse. And in some areas, they have been granted important rights.

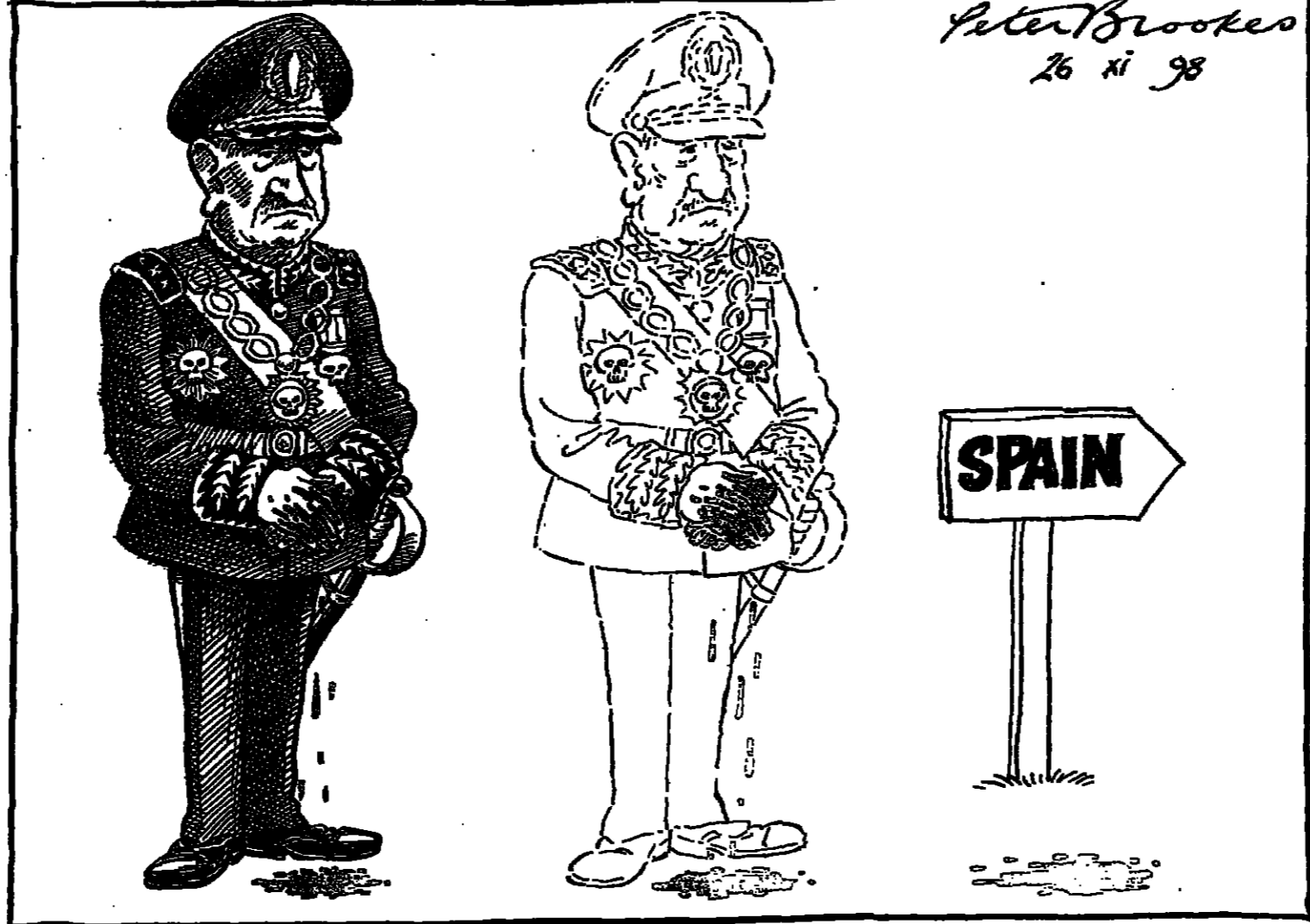
But the new view of international law now goes a crucial step further: it indicates that individuals would be able to enforce their rights, even against states and state officials. This was clearly established by the Nuremberg Tribunal, set up to try alleged war criminals after the Second World War. International human rights commissions and courts have been established to receive claims from individuals directly, in Europe, the Americas, Africa, and at the global level. And last July states adopted the Statute for a Permanent International Criminal Court with jurisdiction over war crimes and crimes against humanity. This expressly provides that heads of state have no immunity in respect of crimes under international law.

### Appalling violations have been permitted by heads of states

The proceedings in the Pinochet case posed in the most direct terms the conflict between these two competing visions of international law: on the one hand, the international law of the past whereby a head of state could do what he wished and rely on the fact that he was immune before the courts; on the other hand, the international law of today and tomorrow in which a former head of state is not immune from claims brought by, or in relation to, wrongs perpetrated on innocent victims.

The majority judgment of the House of Lords represents a defining moment. There was no direct precedent for it in the national court judgments of other states. No other national court had taken the important step of enforcing existing international human rights law in this way. The authority of the Lords gives the ruling — and its implications — great weight. Former heads of state, if they have committed heinous crimes, are responsible for those crimes and may be prosecuted anywhere. Present and future heads of state will think twice before they, too, commit such crimes. As a result the decision of the House of Lords is not only a victory for the victims of General Pinochet's alleged crimes. It is a victory for all human beings everywhere.

Dr Byers is an international lawyer and fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.



THE DISAPPEARED

# Reversal of fortunes

### Forget recession, economic 'melt-up' is more likely, at least for a while

The "melt-up" in world financial markets discussed as a distinct possibility in these columns since the middle of last month, has well and truly happened. While businessmen, politicians and financial analysts have been grimly preparing the world for the end of global capitalism as we know it, stock markets from Wall Street to Warsaw and from Buenos Aires to Bangkok have enjoyed their best monthly gains for 20 years.

In America which, as always, has led the global swings in economic fashion, share prices have surpassed their summer records, economic growth has been revised sharply upwards and consumer confidence has recovered completely from its summer slump. But even in Britain there has been a remarkable change in sentiment since early October, when world financial markets abruptly turned around. London share prices have bounced back to within 5 per cent of the all-time peak they hit on July 21. And, as in America, consumer confidence has begun to revive with the markets. The monthly survey of consumer opinion published on Saturday by the European Commission and the market research firm GfK showed buying intentions for major appliances and other "big-ticket" items stronger than they were at the height of last year's building society windfall frenzy. Consumers' confidence about their personal financial prospects was also at its best level for eight years.

This extraordinary reversal raises many complex questions. The most important is whether the rebound reflects a genuine improvement in world economic prospects. Or could it be counter-productive if it deters the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England from the policy of vigorous expansionary action that has been largely responsible for the global revival in financial confidence? I will touch on this subject at the end, but I want to focus on a more obvious question: is this stock-market recovery just a flash in the pan?

Obviously I do not know the answer, but experience suggests that, at times like this, social psychology is likely to offer a better guide than economic "fundamentals" to future financial performance. In terms of the fundamentals — prospects for economic growth, interest rates and

market, his reply was characteristically blunt: "My job is not to call the market names but to call its direction — and all the indicators are now pointing up." Mr Marber's current view is that all trends in the main equity markets around the world are still up. But, like all charists, trend-followers and believers in reflexivity, he reserves the right to change his mind abruptly.

Where does all this leave lesser mortals trying to decide whether to invest their nest-egg? And what does it mean for central bankers trying to decide whether to add some more monetary fuel to the world economic recovery, or to snuff out the irrational exuberance in stock markets before it gets out of hand?

My personal view is that American and European stock markets will turn sharply downwards again at some point in the next 12 months, since current valuations are too high to be sustained indefinitely, even on the most bullish assumptions about world economic growth. But respect for the trend-following nature of financial markets also suggests that, if Wall Street manages substantially to exceed its summer peak in the next few days, global prices could rise considerably further before they begin to decline. The generally sound condition of the world economy suggests that the down trend, when it finally takes hold, will not cause a world economic collapse or trigger a 1929-style panic. It will represent a typical market cycle, driven by the normal ebbs and flows between greed and fear.

And how, finally, will the central banks react if the melt-up continues? Will the sudden revival of financial confidence prevent them from continuing to cut interest rates? My guess is that the Bank of England, at least, will continue to cut interest rates as long as there is any danger of a serious slowdown. Most central bankers are justifiably suspicious of the stock market as a mechanism for short-term economic forecasts. They see no signs of inflation on the horizon. They believe that their job is to stabilise the real economy of inflation, growth and jobs. It is not to protect financial investors from their own exuberance and despondency — irrational or otherwise.

Anatole Kaletsky

predict the future by studying charts showing the past movement of market prices. They are dismissed by many economists as financial witch-doctors. But if financial markets are recognised as social institutions that reflect collective psychology, and not merely as inanimate economic forecasting mechanisms, there is nothing irrational about the chartists' approach. Mr Marber prides himself on never reading the economic news and never trying to anticipate events that are not already reflected in the charts of market prices. His slogan is that "thinking causes the big losses".

# Palmed off

TONY BLAIR has a genetic abnormality. This is the conclusion of Britain's Cheirological Society (founded 1889) which has been studying the PM's preaching hands. Experts have studied video "grabs" of Blair, waving his hands in the preachy mode that has been sent up so damagingly by Harry Enfield (below right), and noticed that he possesses a smirch line on each hand. Only 2.5 per cent of male types possess this distinguishing feature, which indicates a decidedly odd streak. More than half of those who suffer from Down's Syndrome are born with smirch lines on their hands.

Normal folk have two lines on their hands but Blair's merge together. It is a feature shared by drug addicts, mass murderers, scientific researchers and religious fanatics. The society is the national guardian of this knowledge after studying the palms of habitués of Parkhurst Prison. It contends that this indicates that Blair is zealous, obsessive, and has tremendous will-power. Even Baroness Thatcher, President Saddam Hussein and Michael Heseltine lacked this mark.

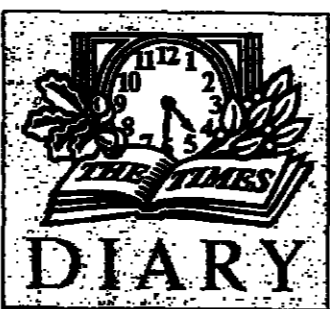
"I don't think anyone with it is normal," says Christopher Jones, society secretary. "Blair is not intellectually retarded but his emotions are subsumed into his intellectual orientation. He is on a mission. He is going to be very good or very bad. It's very unusual. He will change things radically."



As for Sermon from St Albion's, its author Ian Hislop says: "Blair has much in common with vicars: very emphatic and demonstrative."

LATEST artefact: 10,000 dried banana skins, "by" Shelley Sacks. "I found it hard to throw them away," she says, tripping over her own metaphorical banana skin.

Lotta bottle DELIVERING the Budget was such an ordeal for Norman La-



ment that a stiff nip was required before the Chancellor had even reached the Commons. William Hague relates the tale of how, as Lamont's PPS, his bag-handler duties were taken literally. "Norman decided he needed a drop of Highland Park early. He sent me across Parliament Square for a bottle. He had a drink and then asked me to carry it to the Commons." Hague felt his gravitas would be undermined. "I said, 'Norman it is in a plastic bag. I can't be photographed carrying that outside No 11.' Norman said, 'Stick it in the Budget box.'"

Hague told Lamont that it took up too much room. "Norman said, 'Well take the Budget out then.' When he stepped outside No 11 I thought, 'If that case isn't locked, this could be the most embarrassing photo in Budget history.'" Friends of the former Chancellor (right) suggest William is an

embellisher. "A bottle wouldn't fit in Gladstone's red box."

JOHN PRESCOTT made his debut in polite society at The Spectator lunch. "It's a Tory rag," he said. "I threw their invitation into the bin until they told me I'd won a prize." The Deputy PM heckled other Leftie winners.

### Unsung hero

DAVID TRIMBLE says the real hero of the peace process is Bono of U2. "Even though they are Irish," cautions the Nobel prize-winner "they have been helpful behind the scenes." The handshake between Trimble and John Hume, engr-



ned by Bono, nearly destroyed the process. "I'm indebted to Bono for letting Hume know that a concert wasn't the venue for a speech. Once John starts talking..."

Price war ON THE circuit with Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. Bidding began for a cartoon of the wannabe mayor. The organiser, Martin Lee, told a friend: "Tim (Waterstone) came over and said I don't want to meet that insufferable Archer. I just put in three bids for the (cartoon). He insisted it go for a higher price than any of his other cuttings. It's even suggested there were ringers in the crowd." To no avail: the cartoon raised £110.

### Hot Chilean

GERALD HOWARTH, the Tory MP, has experienced the passion of Chileans over General Pinochet. He appeared on Powerhouse with Dr Cristina Navarrete, a victim of the general. After listening to her tale of torture, he referred to her "alleged sufferings". She grew

angry, and when they retired to the green room, she threatened to behead Howarth. But he complained that it was not worth getting wound up about.

PRINCE EDWARD is set to take on Mick Jagger. The film bod is to interview the rock star about his extraordinary survival. Distressing, questions about his personal life are inevitable. I hope this does not provoke an exchange about Carla Bruni (above), the Paris-based friend of Mr Jagger.



JASPER GERARD

# I'm the man for the job

### Magnus Linklater on the rigours of the campaign trail

I am on the campaign trail. None of your un-elected hereditary nonsense for me. I'm running for election and I'm running hard. Later today, the students of Aberdeen vote to elect their Rector and I'm on the ballot paper — a rather late and surprised entrant, but ready to give it my best shot.

Last night I was out on the campus, distributing leaflets, pressing the flesh, using that special pressure of the hand (Margaret Thatcher, circa 1983), the locker-room elbow squeeze (Neil Kinnock 1992), and the frank, regular-guy grin (Tony Blair 1997). I'm fighting on the issues of course. But, look, if the other guys start slinging mud, it's only natural that I should give as good as I get. OK? This, after all, is politics.

Formidable is the only way to describe my principal opponent — Ms Clarissa Dickson-Wright, one of the Two Fat Ladies, as seen on TV. She carries weight, she is far more famous than me, and she can bake a cake. Indeed she already has done. Her opening gambit was to bake a cake for the students, right there in front of them. Apparently it was delicious. This was a setback all right, rather like losing the New Hampshire primary. I've consulted the Saatchi and Saatchi manual, but they have no advice on how to come back from this, and my team think that rustling up one of my mushroom omelettes is not going to help. Instead, I've decided to turn it on its head in an Alastair Campbell-style coup, and borrow as my campaign slogan the current Wonderbra ad, featuring a lightly-clad young lady saying: "Can't cook, Who cares?"

The rectorial post at Aberdeen is unique. It goes back to the 15th century, when King's College, Aberdeen, was founded, and it has been an elected post from the beginning. It is probably one of the oldest democratically chosen jobs in the country, and it ranks in seniority with that of the Chancellor and the Principal. The Rector actually chairs the university court, whose membership is determined by the Queen, so it is an extremely grand job — though not, alas, paid. Since the Rector's main function is to represent the students, this can lead to a conflict of interest, and from time to time the authorities have attempted to abolish the post altogether. Rather like the hereditary peers, however, its demise has been long foreshadowed and long postponed.

Since I was asked to stand by the university debating society, I intend to play the student card for all it is worth. As one of a generation of undergraduates which rarely needed to worry about loans, tuition fees or the financial hardship of modern universities, I find myself unequivocally on the side of today's hard-pressed students. My campaign will be an impassioned one. A government that pays lip-service to higher education, but is unwilling to pay for it, has abandoned civilised values — that's the kind of thing Aberdeen can expect. I will press for the abolition of tuition fees, the reinstatement of maintenance grants and, in the meantime, lobby the Government ferociously on the Dearing Report.

I have checked to see if there are any embarrassing skeletons in my cupboard, and apart from writing one column for this newspaper which suggests a little uncomfortable fencibility on the fees issue, I think I am clean. Unlike Bill Clinton, I would claim it is a definite plus in this situation to reveal that I did inhale. And I have not been near Clapham Common in years. We candidates, of course, live in fear of the Internet, which forgets nothing. However, if Ms Dickson-Wright uses it to dredge up evidence of any youthful indiscretions, I shall instruct my researchers to go through all her recipes. Two can play at that game.



مَكْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



PINOCHET'S LORDS

A ruling that could transform international law

Yesterday's ruling by the Lords of Appeal turned neither on General Pinochet's guilt nor innocence, nor even on whether he should be extradited to Spain...

In his view, would "assert jurisdiction over the internal affairs of that state at the very time when the Supreme Court in Chile is itself performing the same task?"

DEADLINE POLITICS

The SDLP should support Trimble not Sinn Fein

Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister, insisted that he "did not want to talk of crisis" but he immediately noted that "the potential for this whole experiment to crack up is much greater than people realise"...

believed, Mr Blair will be required to schedule several more visits to Belfast in the week ahead. The original timetable for the formation of an executive was missed at the end of October: with six months passed since the referendum...

FOLLOW THE SOARAWAY SUN

Cornwall calls in vain for a Minister for the Eclipse

In a Commons debate yesterday Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat MP for Truro and St Austell, predicted a national disaster on August 11. On that day millions of sun-worshippers are expected to flood down to the toe of Cornwall to observe the first total eclipse of the sun visible from Britain for 72 years...

earliest datable events in literature, from China and Babylon to the prophet Amos "I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight" concern eclipses.

IVF treatment and sharing of eggs

From Dr Kamal Ahuja and Mr Eric Simons, FRCOG

Sir, Your excellent coverage (November 23) of the news on egg-sharing, whereby women undergoing in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) can donate half their eggs to help others...

From Mr Hossain Abdalla, MRCOG
Sir, Egg donors can be benevolent volunteers who have had children or women undergoing IVF who decide to share some of their eggs in return for a free IVF attempt...

The teaching of history in schools

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Sir, Your leading article on history and the core curriculum (November 23) rightly states that "British children who know nothing of Magna Carta... are cut off from their national heritage"...

From Mr Felix Heimer
Sir, Has it not been demonstrated, over and over, that for an objective comprehension of the subject, the teaching of history to young children is more or less impossible?

Pagans rise where rural churches fail

From Mr Peter Horton

The Bishop of Lincoln is right to be concerned at the rise in paganism (report, November 20), but I believe he is wrong to lay the blame for it on the closure of rural churches...

From the Reverend Andrew P. de Berry
Sir, It is not quite clear from the Bishop of Lincoln's remarks whether he was using paganism as a generic term for godlessness...

Women in power

From the Minister of State for Public Health

Sir, The idea that women have "little chance" of getting their fingers on the handles of power in the Labour Government (article, "Women in politics", November 24) is quite wrong.

From Professor Ian Craft, Director of the London Fertility Centre Ltd
Sir, I believe the HFEA is right to show major concern about infertile women donating their eggs to other infertile women...

Elected members

From the Archdeacon of York

Sir, Elections to the Lower House of the Church's Convocations have been by universal suffrage of the clergy since 1283, and it took many centuries for elections to the House of Commons to follow this good example.

today than ever before. Five Cabinet ministers, 22 ministers, including eight on the front benches in the Lords, and 101 Labour women MPs have brought a new face to government.

From Mrs Hazel Bell
Sir, Each year we attempt to take advantage of the Post Office's advertised surface mail rates for sending Christmas cards abroad.

VAT on art sales

From Professor Kenneth Minogue

Sir, Your report on the coming imposition of VAT on art sales (Business News, November 23) records that back in 1993 the Conservative Government negotiated a special rate of 2.5 per cent which would apply until a harmonising rise to 5 per cent would come into effect after June 1999.

right to be able to cast my vote against parliamentary candidates of either the Tory Right or the militant Left.

I would agree that it is contrary to the democratic principle that the hereditary peers should obstruct the parliamentary process (letters, November 17, 18, 20, 21 and 24). But it would surely be equally contrary to that free process if either Tory or Labour could in the future impose upon the electorate lists composed entirely of one view within either party.

Opera in concert
From Mr Nicholas Wright
Sir, Mr D. Goodall (letter, November 24) raises an interesting point when he compares concert with theatre performances of opera.

Opera in concert
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Sir, Mr D. Goodall (letter, November 24) raises an interesting point when he compares concert with theatre performances of opera.

Silver surfers

From Mr Thomas Denne

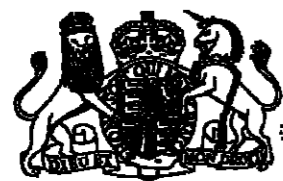
Sir, Some of us silver surfers, who spend an average of ten hours a week on the Internet (report and leading article, November 19), may be driven as much by incompetence as by enthusiasm.

Follow the Soaraway Sun

Cornwall calls in vain for a Minister for the Eclipse

In a Commons debate yesterday Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat MP for Truro and St Austell, predicted a national disaster on August 11. On that day millions of sun-worshippers are expected to flood down to the toe of Cornwall to observe the first total eclipse of the sun visible from Britain for 72 years...

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 25: The President of the Republic of Kenya visited The Queen today.
The Queen later attended a Reception at St James's Palace to mark the 15th Anniversary of Her Majesty's Patronage of Cottage Homes.

Dinners

Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriff, attended a civic dinner of the Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers held last night at Spicers Hall.



Prince Michael of Kent arriving at Banqueting House, Whitehall, yesterday for a fashion show by Gianfranco Ferré and lunch in aid of the British Red Cross

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Corner and Miss S. Clapp
The engagement is announced between Jonno, son of Ian Corner, of Solihull, and Jean Milner, of Acocks Green, Birmingham, and Susan, eldest daughter of Richard and Helen Clapp of Port Alfred, South Africa.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Master of Trinity House, will attend a ceremony at North Foreland Lighthouse, Kent at 11.00 to mark the completion of the restoration programme of the lighthouse.

Birthdays today

Major-General Sir John Acland, 70, Professor Margaret Boden, 78, philosopher and psychologist, 62, Sir Alan Dalton, former chairman, English China Clays, 75, Lord Forde, 90, Sir Brian Goswell, deputy senior partner, Healey and Baker, 63, the Earl of Gowrie, 59, Mr John Gummer, MP, 59, the Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 65, the Earl of Lovelace, 47, Mr John McVie, rock guitarist, 53, Lord Moore of Lower Marsh, 61, Sir George Quigley, chairman, Ulster Bank, 69, Mrs A.S. Rae, former chairwoman, Cleeve College, 73, Mr Charles Schulz, cartoonist, 76, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, 75, Mrs Barbara Switzer, trade unionist, 58, Miss Tina Turner, singer, 59, Mr Keith Vaz, MP, 42, Mr Des Walker, footballer, 33, Mr Norman West, MEP, 63.

Dr Michael Hodges

A celebration of the life of Dr Michael Hodges will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 1998, at 4.30pm in the Founders' Room (The Shaw Library) at the London School of Economics. All friends and colleagues are welcome to attend. RSVP: 0171-955 7561.

Luncheons

British Red Cross
Princess Michael of Kent was the guest of honour at a luncheon and fashion show held yesterday at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, in aid of the British Red Cross.

University news

Emmanuel College, Cambridge
The annual Commemoration of the Founder and Benefactors Service and Dinner at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was held on Wednesday, November 25, 1998. The Master, Professor J.E. Flavours, presided. The Commemorative Service was presided by the Right Revd J.L. Thompson, Lord Bishop of Bath and Honorary Fellow of the College.

Reception

The Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations
The Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations (JCRC) in Cambridge held a reception at The Athenaeum, London, yesterday. Mr Chaim Natan, Chair of the Centre's Board of Trustees, was the host. The occasion was to welcome the Centre's first Russian Exchange Student, Gleb Yastrebov from St. Andrew's Biblical Theological College, Moscow, and to honour Mr Ian Karver who made the change possible. The Centre hopes to extend this programme to other students from Russia and Poland with a view to promoting Jewish-Christian Relations in these countries.

Seminar

HM Government
Mr Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Lord Salisbury of Turville, were the speakers at a four-hour seminar held yesterday at Lancaster House.

Latest wills

Kenneth Simon Digby Wingfield Digby, of Sandley, Gillingham, Dorset, left estate valued at £4,533,444 net.
Sir James Sharp-Tait, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The City University 1966-74, of Teddington, Middlesex, left estate valued at £21,265 net.
Sir Francis Harry Hinsley, former Master of St John's College, Cambridge, of Cambridge, left estate valued at £200,674 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir James Ware, antiquary, Dublin, 1594; William Cowper, poet, Great Berkhampstead, Hertfordshire, 1731; William Armstrong, Baron Armstrong, inventor, Newcastle, 1810; John Alexander Newlands, chemist, London, 1837; Enlynn Williams, actor, Mostyn, Cwyd, 1905; Pat Phoenix, actress, Galway, Ireland, 1923.
DEATHS: John Elwes, miser, Marcham, Berkshire, 1789; John Alcock, inventor of the road surface of that name, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, 1836; Coventry Patmore, poet, Lynton, Hampshire, 1896; Sir Leander Jameson, leader of the abortive raid into the Transvaal, London, 1917; Tony Dorey, trombonist and band leader, Greenwich, Connecticut, 1955; Cyril Connolly, critic, London, 1974.

Haberdashers' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Haberdashers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr D.G.C. Inglefield; Wardens, Mr M.D.G. Wheldon, Mr B.E. Shawcross, Mr J.E.N. Bates and Mr J.B.S. Swallow.

The Pilgrims

The following have been elected members of the executive committee of The Pilgrims to serve for a three-year term: Lord Camoy, Sir Tobias Clarke, Dr Jack Cunningham, MP, Lord Howe of Aberavon, CH, QC, Mr Charles McVeigh, III, Lord Renwick of Clifton and Dame Stella Rintington.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Nancy Baird, NSM Assisted, Bradford (St Edmund's) and Ipswich (St Edmund's) to be NSM (known as Assistant Priest), Stowupland, Haughley and Wetherden, with special responsibility for Cedars Park, Stowupland (same diocese).
The Rev John-Henry Bowden, NSM, St Mary le Bow w. St. Pancras, Upper Lane etc (London); to be Curate, Chislehurst (Chichester).
The Rev Gary Bradley, Vicar, Puddington St Saviour and Priest-in-Charge, Puddington St Mary (London); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Puddington St Mary Magdalene (same diocese).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
PHILLIPS - On 10th November 1998, Mrs. Philippa (née Prother) and Richard, a daughter Phoebe Rachel, at their home in London and Katharine.
PHILLIPS - On 11th October to Jo (née Prother) and Charles, a son, Edward Samuel, at their home in London.

DEATHS
ANDREWS - T. J. Jim passed away on the 24th November 1998 aged 71. Much loved by his wife, three children and grandchildren. Buried at St. Peter's Church, London.
FRANCE - William Gordon MC, FRCS, known as Gordon, passed away on November 20th, 1998. He will be sadly missed by his wife, three children and grandchildren. Buried at St. Peter's Church, London.

DEATHS
MORLEY - Suddenly on 10th February, Major (Retd) Neil Anthony Morley, late Royal Warrant, passed away on Saturday 21st November 1998. He will be sadly missed by his wife, three children and grandchildren. Buried at St. Peter's Church, London.

DEATHS
PHILLIPS - John Gordon (Jack), CH, CBE, RN (Retd) passed away on 22nd November 1998 aged 82. Beloved husband of Margaret, much loved by his family. Buried at St. Peter's Church, London.

Advertisement for 'MAGAZINE' featuring a large graphic of the magazine cover and text in Arabic script.





INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Bronwen Maddox compares Gates with Rockefeller PAGE 33



ARTS Edward Norton: muscled movie man with a mind PAGES 38-41



SPORT Rusedski still hopes for ATP passport to Hanover PAGES 48-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 1998

2W

Trade gap fuels hopes for rate cut

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

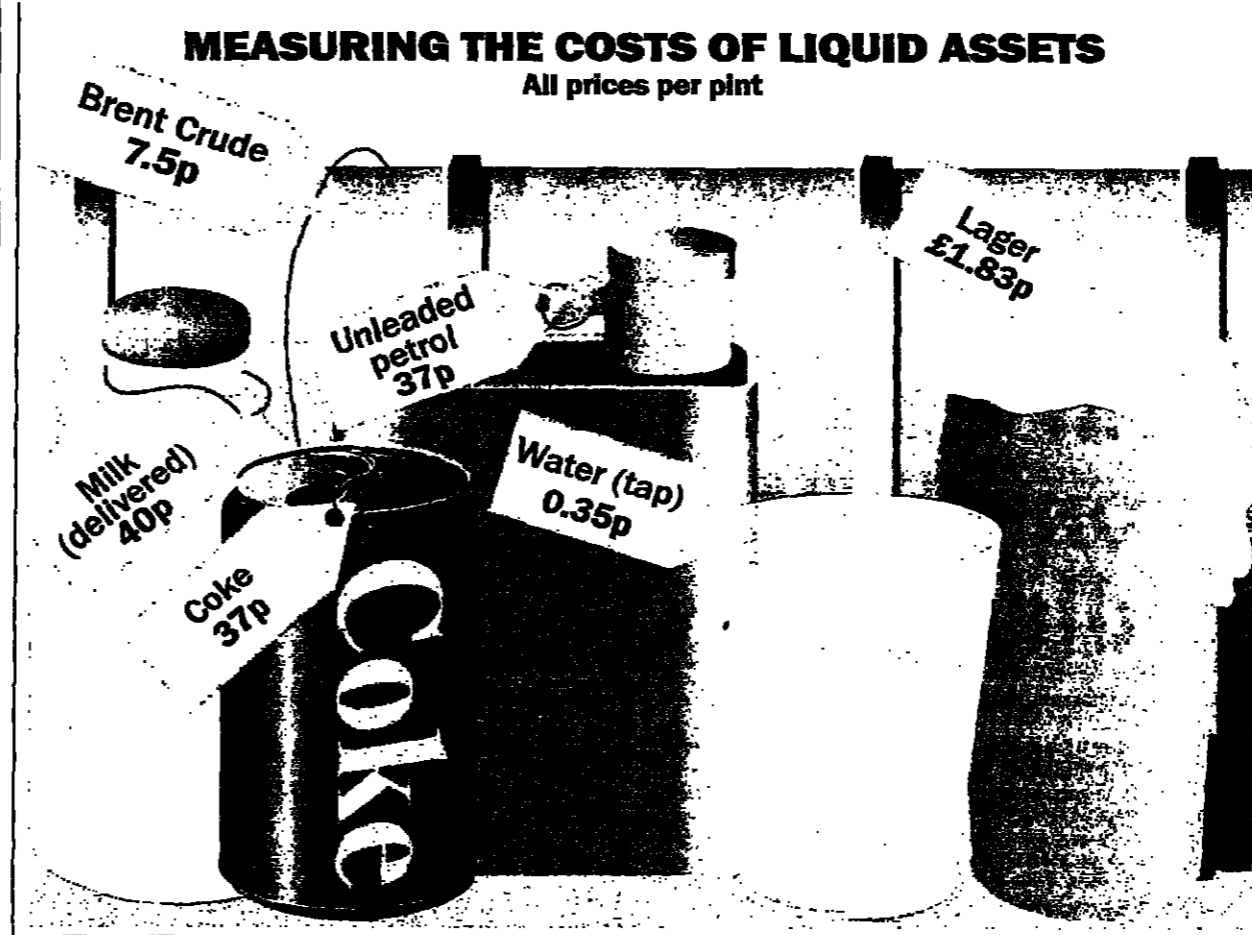
BRITAIN'S trade gap with the rest of the world reached record proportions in September, fuelling hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates again next week. The September global goods trade deficit totalled £2.5 billion - almost double the August figure. The huge rise in the trade gap reflected across-the-board weakness in exports, with the September deficit with EU countries jumping to £992 million against £80 million in August - the worst performance since April 1997. The more timely October non-EU trade figures showed a modest recovery, with the deficit shrinking from £1.91 billion to £1.32 billion, but analysts gave warning that the underlying picture suggests the trade gap is likely to act as a significant drag on GDP growth in the fourth quarter of the year. John O'Sullivan, UK economist at Greenfield NatWest, said the figures should not be too great a surprise but that they boded ill for the final quarter of the year. "The seeds sown by the protracted period of sterling strength are now being reaped with a vengeance," Michael Hume, UK economist at Lehman Brothers, added that the data should encourage the Bank of England to cut rates again at its two-day meet-

ing starting on December 9. He said: "The bad news for the Bank in terms of inflationary pressures and their indirect effects on the activity side. We think there is 75 per cent chance of a cut in December." City economists said that only a sharp fall in the pound is likely to ease the pain for exporters. The pound, however, dipped only briefly after the release of the data, bolstered by renewed speculation of European interest rate cuts. Sterling closed marginally up against the mark at DM2.8324 and rose 0.1 on its trade-

Commentary.....31

weighted index to 101.7. The prospects for a December rate cut should become clearer after Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, speaks before the Treasury Select Committee today. The market is looking for signs that the Monetary Policy Committee has taken on board the uniformly weak data released since the Bank published its Quarterly Inflation Report two weeks ago. Industry pressure for a further rate cut is likely to intensify if the Confederation of British Industry's industrial trends survey today points to a

further contraction in manufacturing output. Across the third quarter, underlying export volumes, which exclude oil and erratics, increased by 1.7 per cent compared with the same quarter last year. Import volumes, however, were 8.5 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 1997. Kevin Darlington, UK economist at ABN Amro, said that with import demand growth in Britain's main export markets running at nearly 7 per cent, the figures suggest that the country's exporters have suffered a decline in market share. He added that the strength of import growth and anecdotal evidence that UK companies are seeking to source more from overseas also pointed to UK manufacturers losing ground in the domestic market. Brian Wilson, Trade Minister, blamed the worsening trade gap on "global economic problems, particularly in Asia", taking their toll of the country's export performance. Exports to East Asia are some 30 per cent lower than a year ago. However, economists pointed to the widening deficit with EU countries as evidence that European competitors are beginning to make inroads into the UK market. Trade in services, however, remained in the black, although the September surplus of £954 million was the lowest figure for nearly a year.



Brent crude tumbles to 22-year low as rift within Opec widens

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

PANIC gripped the oil markets yesterday as dealers reacted to renewed signs of dissension within Opec. The price of the Brent crude future contract dipped below \$11, its lowest since 1976, reflecting fears that the oil cartel will be unable to take action to reduce the supply glut. Opec's ministerial meeting in Vienna was delayed last night after horse-trading between the countries had failed to produce an agreement on new measures to raise prices. Saudi Arabia, Opec's largest producer, was insisting that cartel members must meet fully the 2.6 million barrel per day output cut agreed in June before it would contemplate further measures demanded by other countries. Libya has argued that Opec needs to cut a further million barrels from the 75 million barrel per day world market and

Algeria has called for a summit of Opec leaders next year to address the problem. However, Venezuela and Iran have so far failed to comply with the agreement to reduce supplies. The price slump has slashed the incomes of Opec countries such as Venezuela, Iran and Nigeria but it is also hurting Western oil companies. At current price levels, North Sea oil companies are losing \$1 for every barrel produced. The high cost of production in British waters is putting the domestic oil industry at an acute disadvantage to producers in the Middle East and West Africa. The Department of Trade and Industry has launched a task force aimed at helping companies to reduce their costs and protect thousands of Scottish jobs. Shell, Texaco and Amerasia Hess have already announced UK job cuts.

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including STOCK MARKET INDICES, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, and STERLING.

Shake-up hits trio of fund managers

PHILLIPS & DREW, Gartmore and Foreign & Colonial, the City fund managers, have lost more than £12 billion of business over the past 14 months, according to analysis by Merrill Lynch, the broker. The winners from the continuing shake-up of which firms pension funds want to look after their assets have been Legal & General and Barclays Global, who specialise in index tracking. Merrill says the moves show a shift away from active fund management and that "investors are reducing the size of their bets" on the market. The Merrill figures, based on research by Pensions Week, show that since the start of October 1997 P&D and Gartmore lost 44 pension fund mandates and gained just nine, losing a total of £7.94 billion in funds. F&C lost one large mandate worth £5.8 billion but gained six small ones. L&G and Barclays made net gains of 22 mandates, representing £7.43 billion, in the same period. P&D and Gartmore are well known for their bearish stances on the way the market is moving. Last year P&D started a "dash for cash" when it withdrew funds from the equity markets, a move followed by Gartmore. However the performance of the funds they managed lagged the market and it showed a phenomenal rise in the early part of this year. Gartmore appeared to lose its nerve and start re-investing in the summer, just as the equity markets turned, and P&D's cash-rich position was vindicated as it outperformed all other funds in the three months to September 30.

Media growth boosts profits at Granada

By RAYMOND SNODDY AND DOMINIC WALSH

SHARES in Granada jumped 37p to 910p as a surge in media profits helped the group to beat City expectations and push operating profits for the year to nearly £1 billion. The results came on the day that Granada was one of the main beneficiaries of the revaluing of ITV licences by the Independent Television Commission. This will save Granada an extra £43 million a year on an annualised basis for ten years. The main licence fee savings came from the Yorkshire TV subsidiary, although Granada will have to pay more for its LWT and Granada franchises when it applies for renewal in the next two years. The licence renewals follow last week's decision by the ITC to allow News at Ten to be moved. Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman, said this would enable ITV to produce a more competitive schedule, and predicted that the franchise could hit its target audience share of 40 per cent in prime time by 2000. Profits at Granada's media businesses jumped 36 per cent to £255 million helped by a first full year from Yorkshire TV contributing to group operating profits up 18 per cent to £970 million in the year to September 26. Profits before tax and exceptional rose 13 per cent to £735 million with earnings per share reaching 57p (50.6p). A final dividend of 11.56p makes 6.7p (4.5p). The hospitality division shrugged off economic fears with a 19 per cent profit rise to £618 million. The star was the 100-strong Meridien Hotels chain, up 28 per cent to £153 million. Posthouse, Heritage and London Signature all showed double-digit profit growth. Food Services lifted profits 30 per cent with roadside restaurants up 26 per cent. Although rental continued its gradual decline, Charles Allen, chief executive, remains optimistic that there is "a window of opportunity" because of the launch of digital TV. He effectively ruled out either a demerger of the media side or a purchase of a football club. GMTV windfall, page 30 Commentary, page 31 City Diary, page 33



Charles Allen, left, with Henry Staunton, finance director, centre, and Gerry Robinson

Cain is Carlton chief - at 34

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

MICHAEL Green yesterday surprised the City by appointing the 34-year-old marketing director of Asda as the new chief executive of Carlton Communications. Steven Cain, who will replace the Carlton managing director, June de Moller, who is retiring after 30 years with the company, will join Carlton early next year. The appointment will make him the youngest chief executive of a FTSE 100 company. Mr Green, the Carlton chairman, said Mr Cain was "the outstanding candidate in a very strong field". His appointment will, however, fuel suspicions in the City that Mr Green is reluctant to give up too much power within the company. Before Ms de Moller, a Carlton veteran, was promoted to the post, Mr Green had employed Keith Edelman, now chief executive of Storehouse, and then Bob Phillis, now at Guardian Media, as managing director. Mr Cain, who worked for Bain & Co, the consultants, after graduating from Imperial College, London, had responsibility for group development and strategy at Kingfisher where he first worked with Archie Norman. He followed Mr Norman to Asda and has been there for the past six years. Mr Cain, married with three children, said: "I am excited by the challenge of keeping Carlton at the forefront of development and making the most of its undoubted potential."

UK drivers invited to buy cars abroad

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS "ALLO Pierre, got a new motor?" UK motorists, increasingly irritated by the high cost of new cars in Britain, are being invited across the Channel to splash out on the latest models. French car salesmen predict a boom in cross-Channel business as motor industry prices fall in continental Europe as a result of a harmonisation process driven by the euro. Car prices are already markedly cheaper in France than in the UK. Yesterday a London dealer quoted £13,400 for a new Honda Civic 1.4, compared with Fr96,800 (£10,433) offered by a dealer in Paris. An Alfa Spider, priced at £23,000 in London, was selling for Fr190,000 (£20,063) in Paris, and a Volvo S40 for £13,995 in London and Fr123,900 (£13,083) in France. French mandataires - dealers who now specialise in buying cars for French customers in "cheap" countries, such as Spain and Portugal - are targeting British customers, anticipating a collapse in their domestic market when the single European currency is introduced. Pierre Bourgeois, director of the French motor industry watchdog, L'Observatoire de l'Automobile, said there was a 35 per cent difference in the cost of new cars between Germany and Britain on the one hand and Spain, Portugal and The Netherlands on the other. In five years' time, the gap will have been reduced to a maximum of 5 per cent between euro-zone countries, he said.

Weather forecast section with icons for sun, clouds, rain, and snow.

Advertisement for a service, mentioning 'HIGHER TIDES' and 'BEST & LOWEST'.

Large advertisement for Cisco Systems, featuring a woman's portrait and text: 'Because her business demands the best from the Internet, she demands her service provider displays this logo.' Includes Cisco logo and website information.

Investors back BP takeover of Amoco

BP shareholders overwhelmingly approved the company's proposed takeover of Amoco of America yesterday.

The deal is structured as a merger whereby BP will acquire Amoco in return for new BP shares.

Amoco shareholders voted on what is the world's largest industrial merge on December 10.

Nestlé shares fell almost 6 per cent yesterday after the Swiss food and beverage group gave warning that a slowdown in emerging markets and adverse currency movements would restrict growth in sales and profits in the second half.

TOURIST RATES

Table with columns for Bank, Buy, Sell and rows for various countries including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Loss-making GMTV wins £30m licence fee windfall

GMTV, the loss-making commercial breakfast television station, was given a massive £30 million a year windfall by the Independent Television Commission yesterday.

Granada, Scottish Media and Disney, was attacked by Bruce Cynnell, chairman of TV-am, which was outbid by GMTV seven years ago.

Table titled 'CHANNEL LICENCES - TERMS FOR RENEWAL' showing total payments 1998 and total proposed tender payments 1999 for various channels like Anglia, Border, Carlton, etc.

The biggest winner yesterday was Granada which, taking its GMTV stake into account, will save £30.9 million.

Nat Power completes Midlands buy

NATIONAL Power yesterday bought 2.2 million electricity customers and launched the world's biggest power station sale as part of its strategy to strengthen its share of a fully competitive UK market.



ScottishPower's Charles Berry, left, with Stuart MacDonald of the Lighthouse, the first to sign up to ScottishPower's new green energy tariff.

Rhone and Hoechst confirm talks

RHONE-POULENC of France and Hoechst of Germany yesterday confirmed long-standing speculation that they are in talks to create a new pharmaceutical giant.

Manchester deal for Sir Rocco

SIR ROCCO FORTE, whose new hotel empire already stretches from Cardiff to St Petersburg, yesterday unveiled plans to build a five-star hotel and health spa in Manchester.

Tring goes into administration

WHAT began as a lucrative wheeze between two schoolfriends to cash in on the market for cut-price CDs ended in disaster yesterday as Tring International went into administration.

APC reports advance

ADVANCED Power Components, manufacturers and suppliers of electronic components, reported pre-tax profit for the year to August 31 of £930,000, up from £885,000 last time.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

DE Shaw to sell derivatives arm

DE SHAW, the hedge fund rescued by BankAmerica, wants to sell its derivatives subsidiary of more than 100 traders who are based mostly in London.

Airlines battle on Net

THE competition between Britain's cut-price airlines is boosting the use of the Internet for ticket reservations with online flight and package bookings expected to be worth £500 million in 2003 compared with £24 million now.

Kewill sees growth

KEWILL SYSTEMS, the supplier of computer software, reported pre-tax profits of £4.52 million, before amortisation of goodwill, for the six months to September 30, compared with £3.53 million in the same period last year.

BT faces full inquiry

THE European Commission yesterday confirmed that it is to conduct a full investigation of the proposed alliance between British Telecom and AT&T of America because of competition concerns.

Bologna seeks listing

ITALY'S Bologna Football Club said yesterday it hopes to be listed on the Milan stock exchange by the second half of next year if it manages to turn this year's anticipated losses into profits in 1999.

CML shares tumble

SHARES of CML Microsystems, the electronics equipment group, yesterday lost a third of their value after disappointing first-half results and a warning of a "substantial reduction" in full-year figures.

Deutsche denies sale

DEUTSCHE BANK sought to quash speculation that it planned to sell its 15.1 per cent stake in DaimlerChrysler, the newly formed US-German auto manufacturer, to fund its proposed acquisition of Bankers Trust.

Bid for Clark accepted

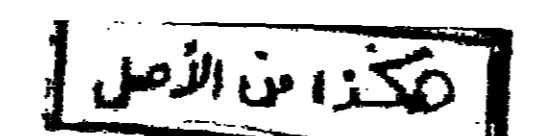
SHAREHOLDERS of Matthew Clark, the cidermaker and drinks wholesaler, have voted to accept the 243p-a-share offer from Canandaigua Brands, the US drinks supplier.

Just £199.99 for a Digital Satellite System

Digital Satellite couldn't be better value. You pay just £199.99 for your MiniDish and Digibox when you agree to have your phone line connected to your Digibox for 12 months.



The special offer created for the digital satellite system (including installation) is subject to signing the Interactive Discount Contract with BT Marketing Contributions Ltd and having the Digibox connected to a land and operational telephone line at the property for 12 months minimum.



Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page with various headlines like 'Investor Tate spite' and 'BA takes sta'.

How to sell  
atives arm

Bank America, was  
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na seeks listing

shares tumble

ports advance

he denies sale

Clark accepted

digital

# Marks & Spencer must look out



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

The Baker Street board meeting did not, in the end, last into the early hours. There was a dinner for former directors on the agenda and, despite the mayhem that has enveloped the company in recent weeks, that dinner was not going to be postponed. The conversation might have been a little strained at times, however, as the M&S delicacies were dished up in the salubrious surroundings of the Baker Street executive dining rooms. It is unlikely that those present were treated to a full report on the historic board meeting which had preceded it. The results of that meeting will be revealed to the Stock Exchange this morning. They will not represent revolution but after the events of recent weeks, Baker Street will never be the same again.

The new chief executive has to be given a chance to fulfil the role without having his boss breathing down his neck at every stage. The non-executive directors will have to ensure that the chairman knows his place. They have been bounced into initiating change at the top of the company sooner than they had wished because of the emergence of Keith Oates as a rival to the chairman. Whether it was he or his friends who were directly responsible for alerting the world to the tensions at the top of the company, he should now accept that it is time to move on. Negotiating a package to ease the pain of defeat ought to be quickly accomplished. Then M&S can get back to business.

about the competition can be damaging. The company needs to be bringing in more outside talent rather than relying on the home-grown variety. Despite the elaborate training schemes M&S runs for its own people, the company needs to widen the gene pool from which it picks its talent. The shock it has suffered recently may be only a precursor to change throughout the group.

## ITC doles out commercial breaks

Given Granada's rude health it seems strange that the Independent Television Commission should bless the company with a £43 million-a-year rebate on its ITV franchise fees. The boost comes from a cut in the amount that LWT, Yorkshire, Tyne Tees and GMTV will have to pay, with Granada the largest beneficiary of the ITC's largesse.

All the ITV companies took commercial decisions when they made their sealed bids for the franchises in a system described by one cynic as "highest bidder wins, unless it doesn't". The old TVS learned the truth of this when it was told its bid was uncommercial and it lost its licence. The bids by LWT and Tyne Tees were well pitched and the companies thrived, ultimately being taken over for much more than they were worth before the bidding process began. These takeovers made the directors of the companies rich, and some of them generously shared their new-found wealth with the Labour Party.

Yorkshire probably bid too much, but it cut its cloth accordingly and became the sort of learner, fitter animal it should have been in the first place. It thrived and Granada paid a massive premium to acquire it. GMTV certainly paid too much, outbidding the more sensible TV-am. It is

only still broadcasting courtesy of the deep pockets of its backers. Now the ITC has taken pity on the company and is cutting its licence fee. Understandably those who pitched realistically in the first place and thereby lost the business do not see this as a fair way to conduct business. If the ITV companies are not happy with the fees they have to pay, perhaps they should surrender their franchises and be forced to bid for them again. Otherwise, the system is in danger of rewarding incompetence.

The ITC's ruling betrays a certain lack of commercial expertise and common sense. The body is chaired by Sir Robin Biggam, who does not even appear to have been an enthusiastic television viewer before becoming its regulator. A Scottish accountant, he could not be called a commercial novice but he is blamed by many for the fall from grace of BICC. His colleagues on the ITC include the former press secretary to the Queen, the chief executive of "The International Centre for Life" and the Earl of Dalkeith, a noted conservationist. Great and good, maybe, but perhaps not the best people to determine the value of commercial television licences, even when in possession of the best advice.

## Will Green let Cain be able?

Gerry Robinson and Charles Allen have a fine working relationship. It enables jovial Gerry to spend a bit of time sorting out the Arts Council, improve his golf handicap and enjoy long weekends in Ireland. "Why keep a chief executive and do the job yourself?" reasons the Granada chairman. The fruits of this philosophy were once more apparent yesterday as Granada presented another bumper set of figures. Both sides of the business, television and hotels, are thriving. The company seems to have the happy knack of making acquisitions which turn out to be even better than had been expected. Forte has delivered more than most optimists had dared expect. There

is even a silver lining to the failure to sell Grosvenor House: whatever used to be said about portion control being Forte's forte, Granada has trebled the profits made from all the banquets and balls.

However they divide the labour, the combination of Robinson and Allen clearly delivers. Shareholders in Carlton may be hoping that Michael Green has found someone with whom he can work the same magic. But there are doubts as to whether the 34-year-old marketing director of Asda will prove to be the man. Steven Cain is a former Baines who worked for Kingfisher before joining the Leeds-based grocer. He may feel that the time is right to head south. But sceptics suspect that Michael Green is not a delegator in the Robinson mould.

## Half measures

THE gaping trade deficit should provide the Monetary Policy Committee with little excuse for any other action than a cut in interest rates next week. The only debate may be over whether the traditional preference for quarter-point cuts should be pushed aside in favour of a more generous half. Although it would not hit pockets until the new year, a half just before the Christmas shopping season gets under way might provide a welcome filip to the retailers.

# Investors reward Astec succumbs to £265m takeover

## Tate & Lyle in spite of slump

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

SHARES of Tate & Lyle, the sugar company, jumped by nearly 8 per cent yesterday despite reporting underlying annual profits had slumped by more than a fifth. Investors were pleased at the results, however, because they were a little better than expected. Tate shocked observers with a profits warning in May and relief that these final numbers contained no nasty

surprises assisted the rise. The company also outlined plans to cut costs and made a determined pledge to become an "efficient, low-cost producer". Tate also reassured the stock market by saying that a sharp dip in profit margins, recorded last year, would be temporary. Pre-tax profits actually rose in the year to September 26 from £159 million to £165 mil-

lion. The 1997 figures, however, were depressed by a raft of restructuring costs totalling £82 million. In the year just ended, Tate's operating profits tumbled from £277 million to £217 million. Tate was badly hit when disease affected its sugar beet crop in the US. Profits also suffered from delays in commissioning a new starch plant in France.



Spoonful of sugar: Larry Pillard, chief executive of Tate & Lyle

Larry Pillard, chief executive, said: "This has been an unsatisfactory year." He said that continual pressure would be brought to bear on all parts of the business to increase efficiency and improve margins. Tate has also introduced a set of financial targets. It wants to build interest cover to four times from 3.5 times by September 2000, building return on net operating assets from 11.9 per cent to 15 per cent, to generate £50 million of cashflow before acquisitions, and to produce annual improvements in "economic value added" - profitability as a proportion of capital employed in the business. Despite the profits setback, Tate has maintained its dividend payout at 17p for 1998. The payment is covered only by earnings per share of 1.6 times but Mr Pillard said that serious consideration had been given to cutting the dividend. Shares closed up 29p at 402p. Tate is also moving its financial year end from September to March. Mr Pillard said that many of Tate's customers arranged contracts for a calendar year and the change in reporting period would make it easier for the company to forecast demand and arrange budgets.



Lance: chief executive

By MARTIN BARROW

ASTEC (BSR), the troubled electronic components company, has finally succumbed to a takeover by Emerson Electric of America. Yesterday Emerson announced an 85p a share cash offer, valuing Astec at £265 million. Emerson, a major competitor to Britain's Siebe engineering group, owns 51 per cent of Astec and the offer for the minority shares will cost it about £130 million. The terms have been agreed

by Astec's independent directors, who less than one year ago rejected a possible 11p a share offer. Their action precipitated a row between Emerson and minority shareholders, including leading institutional investors, who objected to Emerson's threat to block dividend payments if the offer was rejected. Dissident investors, who were holding out for a higher offer, launched a High Court action against Emerson, but this was struck out in May. However, a sharp deteriora-

tion in trading conditions has significantly damaged trading prospects for Astec, which operates out of Hong Kong, causing a decline in its shares. Now independent directors recommend acceptance of Emerson's terms, even though it represents a marked discount to the original bid. Astec, under Howard Luce, chief executive, issued profit warnings in August and September and the uncertain economic outlook prompted independent directors to resume negotiations with Emerson.

On Tuesday the shares closed at just 38p. They peaked at 164p in 1996. Emerson now looks certain to win the day, although rumblings of discontent among institutional investors remain. Charles McMicking, of Electra Fleming, yesterday said: "We and other large shareholders believe it dramatically undervalues the potential of a notoriously cyclical business." Minority shareholders will shortly hold a meeting to consider the offer.

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More than just talk

## Vickers holds takeover talks

VICKERS, the UK engineering group, is in talks to acquire Ulstein Holdings, a Norwegian marine engineer valued at about £120 million. The acquisition would create a leading European player in marine engineering, specialising in propulsion and steering systems. Vickers said any deal would exclude Ulstein's shipbuilding arm. Talks with the Norwegian company are led by Paul Buisse, who was appointed chief executive of Vickers earlier this year, charged with refocusing the company after the disposal of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

## Slowdown fears fail to shake Morrison

MORRISON Construction, the building company based in Scotland, said that it expects business to remain buoyant despite widespread concern about a slowdown in the industry. Sir Fraser Morrison, chairman, said: "We have experienced none of the construction industry slowdown talked about. Despite any turbulence in financial markets, our order books are at record levels. Our spread of business has historically protected us from the worst effects of any slowdown." The company reported a 13 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £7.6 million (£6.5 million) in the six months to September 30, on turnover at £187.8 million (£156.4 million). Operating profit margins rose to 5.1 per cent from 4.9 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. Earnings per share rose to 7.71p (6.86p). The interim dividend is lifted to 1.98p a share from 1.8p.

## BA takes stake in Iberia

BRITISH Airways and American Airlines are to pay \$8 billion (£2.4 billion) for a 10 per cent stake in Iberia, the Spanish airline (Adam Jones writes). The final sale agreement is due to be signed on December 2. The price is at the top end of the \$2 billion to \$8 billion price range suggested last month. BA will take up to 9.1 per cent, with American taking the rest. The deal will also lead to the Spanish Government contributing 20 billion pesetas in new capital through Iberia's holding company, Sepi. It is the first step towards full privatisation, with 50 per cent of the airline to be sold through a public share offering in the first quarter of next year. BA would not discuss the deal yesterday but the stake in Iberia is likely to lead to the Spanish carrier becoming part of the Oneworld alliance, which includes BA, American Airlines, Qantas, Canadian Airlines and Cathay Pacific.





Merger boom is a sign of weakness

High-altitude share prices are back. So are the takeover bids that give them oxygen. It is no coincidence. In the UK, shares have recovered by nearly a quarter since FTSE 100 index reached its recent nadir at the start of October. In America, the bounce has been even bouncier. The biggest factor has been the most sensible one. Short-term interest rates are falling faster than most dared to hope. Although the UK lags others, the Bank of England is sharing in a determined attempt to make sure that Europe and North America tame the wave of recession from Asia.

Corporate profits are falling in America, and are probably tumbling here too. At least those profits are now worth more relative to the returns available on cash or bonds. Even so, the prospect of falling profits is not likely to put the spring back into investors' stride.

share prices were riding high, the sudden slump led to a swift suspension of new deals. Financial megamergers were left dangling in mid-air, though most went through. Now corporate financiers are making up for lost time.



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

put itself up for sale. More immediately, Siebe has launched an agreed offer now valuing BTR at £4 billion, neatly combining the two chief stock market laggards among Britain's industrial blue chips. BP shareholders yesterday agreed its takeover of Amoco, one of those deals that spanned the bear market.

Be prepared for a barrage of rumours resuscitating all those deals that were mooted in the heady days of summer. Almost any banking group, for instance, was supposedly about to tie up with another. Such is the drive for financial consolidation in the euro zone across the Channel that at least some of this talk may prove true.

There is a fine irony here. BTR in its heyday was the arch-enemy of the hostile takeover. Its tough top team wanted no truck and no cosy deals with managers of other companies that they reckoned were underperforming. It might still be charging ahead had its top team been ageless and had accounting standards not been changed radically to stop abuses of acquisition accounting.

Rockefeller's case shows Gates what to expect from the public



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX



John D. Rockefeller, second right, helped to write the contract of philanthropy that America still extracts from its billionaires

There is an inevitability to the timing of these things. As soon as Bill Gates and Microsoft find themselves in the dock, charged with abusing their monopoly to crush their competitors, those same competitors reveal they are not quite as crushed as their testimony would have the court believe.

America Online's announcement this week that it was buying Netscape Communications, Microsoft's aggrieved rival in the Internet browser wars, and also forming an alliance with Sun Microsystems, proprietor of the Java Internet programming language, hardly guarantees its future triumph in the cyberwar. But it should leave the trio able to challenge Microsoft in the race to turn cyberspace into an electronic shopping mall.

the comparison is as interesting for its timeless themes. In particular, Chernow's book shows how accurately the muddy, muchcriticised layers of US anti-trust law reflect the ambivalence embedded in America's attitude to its entrepreneurs. Although Chernow's compendium is too long, rather like Rockefeller's 98-year life, it is a marvellous chronicle.

developed court system. With a fragmented but extensive banking system, start-up capital was easily available. In what is an ambivalent biography overall, Mr Chernow is utterly clear on the central charge against Rockefeller: that he used the growing power of Standard Oil to block competition in the business of refining oil, and later, to control much of the US's oil production. Like Mr Gates, he saw early on the importance of controlling distribution. He struck repeated secret deals with the railroads that were then forging their way inwards from the Eastern Seaboard to favour the transportation of his own oil from Ohio and Pennsylvania, and to choke off his rivals' conduits.

84 per cent of all petroleum products sold in America and pumped a third of its crude oil; it also had a near-monopoly abroad. That made Rockefeller the richest man in America, by a margin incomprehensible to ordinary people. In the 1890s, when the average American was earning less than \$10 a week, Rockefeller's average income was \$10 million a year. "In the glory days before income taxes", as Mr Chernow puts it, "by 1902 he had an annual income of \$58 million, or about a billion dollars in tax-free income in today's money."

Most comical of the Gates parallels is Rockefeller's behaviour in the witness box as anti-trust suits swirled around. Like Mr Gates in recent weeks, Rockefeller would have had the world believe that he built one of its most valuable business empires but couldn't remember how he did it. His performance provoked the newspaper headline "Rockefeller Imitates A Clam", while The World magazine noted: "The virtue of forgetting."

Hailing a new route to world of e-commerce



There is a rather patronising maxim used regularly in the consumer technology industry that states "if your granny can use it, then it must be good". So far, the vast majority of Internet products and services fail this test.

Getting online requires buying a PC, wiring it up, and opening an Internet account. If you then decide to make a purchase you have to fill in several pages of information about yourself and type in what seems like a six million digit credit card number.

Taxi, a small British high-tech venture founded by two brothers, Jonathan and Tim Hammond, believes it has found a solution.

So far it has received backing from Chrysalis, the media company, which has bought a 15 per cent stake in the company for more than £500,000. Chrysalis now plans to help Taxi to float on the Nasdaq stock market next year.

Taxi has developed a software product that guides users around the Internet and allows them to buy goods from different companies while receiving only one bill a month.

The product is distributed via a CD-Rom, but is also designed to be used with digital television set-top boxes.

Sainsbury online — and then buy whatever they want. Instead of being charged by the Sainsbury site, users receive a monthly bill from Taxi. Because Taxi users do all their shopping through one piece of software, advertisers can target customers more efficiently.

The concept of Taxi becomes even more attractive when considered in the context of digital television. If ONdigital or Cable & Wireless were to use Taxi as a means of accessing the Internet, it could become truly mass-market.

But Taxi faces stiff competition and there is no reason why digital broadcasters would not want to develop or buy in similar technology.

□ MUSIC produced by well-known artists could soon become available on DVD — the format expected to replace both VHS and CDs — in Europe, following a deal between Sonic Solution, the US software company, and Sonopress of Germany. DVD-Audio discs, which are produced and replicated by Sonopress, can store seven times as much information as standard CDs, and allow better quality sound plus other content such as lyrics and interviews.

Dome groan

AN EXCITED Peter Mandelson will be on hand this morning as the New Millennium Experience Company celebrates the fact that there are just 400 days till D-Day. No doubt there will be further news about what will actually be in the Dome, but there are also likely to be some taxing questions about cash.

American burgers are quite the appropriate sponsors of a British exhibition has held that up. Ford, of Europe, is still in talks about putting in a further £12 million, but that is moving more slowly than a Capri and Reuters is ready to hand over a cheque for £6 million, but no one seems to be willing to take it off its hands.



For I hear that little progress has been made in signing up some of the corporate sponsors who are supposed to be helping to pay for the Dome. McDonald's was due to announce a £12 million deal, but a row about whether



hold a Malibu and pineapple party in Prague. The function appeared to be going pretty well, but at the end there seemed to be rather a lot of the stuff left. When quizzed by my man, the barman confessed that most guests shunned the free Malibu and dipped into their pockets to buy a beer.

top prize is the colourful Gwyneth Flower, the former Army officer who now plays Robin to Don Cruickshank's Batman at Action 2000, the Government's millennium bug-busting task force.

Incomparable

AT GRANADA'S annual results presentation yesterday I was intrigued to hear chief executive Charles Allen outline plans to turn the group's Heritage Hotels chain into an "affordable Relais & Châteaux". Could this have anything to do with the recent hiring of Michel Bouguier, a senior Relais executive, to drive the new Heritage strategy? "I don't really see how one can compare them," sniffs a Relais spokeswoman.

Liffe laughter

EUREX, the German electronic rival to Liffe, has become a victim of its own success. City traders who rushed in droves to sign up are now complaining that the system can't handle the increase in volumes: the Futures and Options Association has identified no fewer than 35 clearing problems.

last night hosted by Jorge Franke, the Eurex chief, to vent their spleen. Few tears will be shed at Liffe's Cannon Street HQ.

Flower power

THE search is on for the IT Personality of 1998, run by Computer Weekly. Normally I would be tempted to suggest this could be a long and fruitless task. But this year's shortlist is enlivened by David Potter, the boss of Psion, whose joint venture with Ericsson, Motorola and Nokia has done



DOMINIC WALSH

and I have will be mulling

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## BT invests \$10m in Internet company

**By Chris Ayres**

BRITISH TELECOM made a further move into the fledgling Internet industry yesterday with a \$10 million (£6 million) investment in Excite, the US media company.

The deal involves BT — which is involved in British Interactive Broadcasting, the digital television venture, and LineOne, the Internet access business — taking a 50 per cent stake in the British subsidiary of Excite. One of the first products to evolve from the investment will be Excite Click, a pay-as-you-surf Internet access service.

Excite began life as a search engine — allowing web users to find different Internet sites — and now offers its own personalised content, covering areas such as news, music and sport. It also offers free e-mail and online shopping. Excite's main source of revenues comes from advertising sold via its main Internet site.

George Bell, chief executive of Excite, said: "Our expertise in providing compelling, personalised content, married with BT's established reputation with UK consumers, enables us to create a joint venture with Excite UK that has the potential to take a leading position in the growing UK Internet market."

Shares in Excite, which are quoted on the Nasdaq stock market in the US, have risen fivefold over the past 12 months. The company is capitalised at \$2.5 billion, in spite of a net loss of nearly \$40 million for the nine months to September 30.



Richard Baldwin, chairman, right, and Ray Stüdwel, finance director of Baldwin Industrial Services, the crane specialist that floated in July. The company reported pre-tax profits of £2.3 million for the six months to September 30, up from £1.7 million last time, on turnover of £16.4 million (£14 million). Earnings were 9.6p and the interim dividend was 1.2p

## Johnson Matthey to hive off electronics arm in US

**By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor**

JOHNSON Matthey, the precious metals and engineering group, plans to hive off its electronics business as a separate US company, in an effort to secure greater shareholder value.

The electronics business that makes circuit boards and laminate packaging for semiconductor manufacturers suffered a 29 per cent slide in profits in the first half as prices were hit by the slump in the computer chip market. Johnson Matthey's group pre-tax profit was up 10 per cent in the half-year, to £61.6 million mainly due to cost-cutting and recovery in the ceramic materials arm.

Chris Clark, chief executive, said that CSFB, the investment bank, had been appointed to look at all the options, including a flotation or sale.

"It is abundantly clear that we are not being credited with a proper valuation of the electronics business," he said.

He said that electronics was primarily a US business supplying US companies such as Motorola and Intel and would enjoy a better perception from US investors.

Analysts were sceptical, but Johnson Matthey shares lifted 22p yesterday on the hope that there was at least £1 of upside in the share price, assuming that the business would fetch about £500 million, roughly 14 times its sales.

One analyst said Johnson Matthey's problem was that electronics required too much investment. "The technology changes every two years and you don't see any return for that investment," he said.

Johnson Matthey has invested some £450 million in electronics, including the Chipewa Falls laminate packaging plant hailed two years ago as a potential profits motor.

However, price erosion has squeezed margins and in the first half profits fell from £18 million to £12.7 million.

Johnson Matthey shares have plummeted from almost £7 last year to £4.

Under the new strategy, Johnson Matthey will combine its chemical and automotive catalyst businesses. The catalysts and chemicals business achieved a £35 million operating profit with European catalyst sales up significantly.

Profits at the precious metals business were up 12 per cent to £16.6 million and ceramic materials gained 29 per cent after heavy cost-cutting, despite a fall in sales.

Johnson Matthey is paying an interim dividend of 5.7p as a foreign income dividend, up 10 per cent on last year.

## Sugar to hold on to 40% stake in Spurs

**By Jason Nisse**

ALAN SUGAR, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, signalled yesterday that he would not be selling his 40 per cent stake in the club after taking over the role of chief executive.

Mr Sugar, who is also chairman of Arsenal, is taking over from Claude Littner. Mr Littner, who took over as chief executive from Terry Venables five years ago, will remain as a non-executive director.

Mr Sugar said yesterday that he "will take a more hands-on approach in the day-to-day management of the business" and Mr Littner said that Mr Sugar had given up trying to sell the club.

Earlier this year it emerged that Mr Sugar had been in talks with Eric, the investment company with interests in six European football teams, about selling his stake. Eric believed it had a deal to pay 80p a share for Mr Sugar's holding, a deal that would have led to an offer for Spurs, but Mr Sugar changed his mind at the last minute.

Mr Littner said: "There is now no possibility at all that Alan is going to be a seller of the club. He is now focused on running it."

He added that his departure was amicable, with Mr Sugar offering him the chance to stay on for another five years, but that Mr Littner wanted a new challenge.

Spurs has been at the centre of bid speculation in recent months, with many analysts arguing that Carlton Communications may now look at the club after having been spurned by Arsenal. Spurs's North London rivals, Arsenal, shares slipped 2p to 75½p on the news.

## NHP pushes ahead with bond issue

**BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

NHP, the property investment company that has bought £350 million of nursing homes since it set up three years ago, hopes early next year to sell bonds backed by £200 million of its leases. The recent turmoil in the bond markets had threatened the plans. Richard Ellert, chief executive, said: "In October, we would not have got it away." He added that NHP still had sufficient credit available to continue buying properties from nursing home operators. NHP suggested that the yield on its securitisation issue was likely to be between 6.5 and 7 per cent.

The group's "spectacular" growth — it was reporting annual pre-tax profits up 143 per cent at £7.8 million — means that Mr Ellert will next month receive 2.5 million shares currently worth about £4 million. Arthur Bergbaum, chairman, Jeremy Davies, estates director, and Danny Francis, finance director, will share a further 2.5 million shares from an incentive scheme. The issue of the management shares dilutes NHP's net asset value from 161.5p to 155.73p a share. NHP is paying a final dividend of 2.4p a share, increasing the total 34 per cent to 8.4p. On the new shares issued in August to raise £91.4 million, it is paying a final dividend of 1.2p. **Tempus, page 32**

## Victoria progresses

VICTORIA, the manufacturer and distributor of carpet yarn and carpets, said that the group had "made excellent progress despite difficult conditions". Pre-tax profit was £472,000 for the six months to September 30, up from £82,000 last time. Turnover was £18 million (£18.8 million) and earnings per share were 4.61p (0.82p). There is again no dividend. Bob Gilbert, chairman, said: "The autumn trading season, normally an active period for carpet sales, has started slowly but demand for our new products remains at encouraging levels."

## Beazer ten-year loan

BEAZER GROUP, the UK construction group, completed a private placement of £67 million of ten-year senior loan notes to a group of insurance companies in Britain and America. The notes, which are unsecured, are repayable in full in November 2008. In the UK Beazer raised £20 million and in the US it raised \$80 million, which has been swapped into £47 million. The company said this long-term financing, at a fixed rate of interest of just under 7 per cent, extends the group's borrowing facilities at an attractive rate.

## Price fall hits Abacus

ABACUS POLAR, the distributor of electronic components, has blamed over-capacity and falling prices for reduced profits. For the year to September 30, pre-tax profit was £7 million, compared with £10 million for the previous period. Turnover was slightly higher at £99.6 million (£98.9 million) while earnings per share slipped to 11.1p (14.8p). The final dividend of 4.4p gives a total for the year of 6.6p (6.0p). Harry Westropp, chairman, said he "believes that in 1999 the company will return to a path of earnings growth".

## Radstone improves

RADSTONE TECHNOLOGY, a supplier of computer sub-systems, yesterday reported a pre-tax loss of £240,000, excluding exceptional, for the six months to September 30. This was an improvement on the loss of £1.17 million for the comparable period last time. Turnover was little changed at £10.09 million (£10.06 million) and losses per share were 3.54p (7.09p loss). Rhys Williams, chairman, said that cost reductions coupled with lower silicon component prices created the basis for a more efficient and profitable business.

## Record figures for E&Y

THE relentless rise of the Big Five accounting firms continues with Ernst & Young announcing record results to maintain its third place in the market (Robert Bruce writes).

Fee income for the year to June 26 rose 19 per cent to £633 million, while average profit per partner advanced 19 per cent to £308,000 and partnership profit before tax jumped 24 per cent to £126 million.

Over the past three years the total partnership profit before tax has risen 104 per cent, profit per partner by 80 per cent and fee income by 57 per cent. In 1994 fee income was just £385 million.

Nick Land, the chairman of Ernst & Young, said: "Whatever the market conditions I be-

## Hi-Tec runs at a loss

HI-TEC, the sports shoe group, has failed to find a US buyer after seven months of searching and, due to difficulties in the North American market, is set to make a loss in the first half (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Hi-Tec shares fell from 25p to 18p after it said that its interim results, for the six months to October 31, would show a trading loss. It said that it "confidently expects to report a profit for the full year albeit at a lower level than for the previous year".

The company said that it had received a number of approaches, but they did not reflect the group's long-term potential. The shares traded at 51½p earlier this year.

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**Challenges**

Simon Bevan

**Clouds on the horizon after the gold rush**

...the process of change has brought substantial benefits to our clients, our people and our business... That, on the surface, is what is happening at all the large accounting firms. But there is another reason and it is to do with changes in the way companies see themselves. Over the past decade I had would accountants have realised that they cannot be content with being a service provider. They have to be a business. The best ideas and innovations do not all come from inside. The success can lie outside the business. Where a competitive advantage is via its supply chain perhaps, or through high ideas and innovations from outside. This has obviously suited the accounting firms. They had a lot of high ideas. And the best ideas in the process have been that they have moved themselves in such a way that they have created a competitive advantage in a way that has not been provided by the process. Last year, for example, the accounting firms, they had a lot of high ideas. And the best ideas in the process have been that they have moved themselves in such a way that they have created a competitive advantage in a way that has not been provided by the process. Last year, for example, the accounting firms, they had a lot of high ideas. And the best ideas in the process have been that they have moved themselves in such a way that they have created a competitive advantage in a way that has not been provided by the process.

**ROBERT BRUCE**

مكتبة من الأصل

# Challenge of auditing the opposition

## Simon Bevan says that reviewing a rival's accounts has led his firm to consider its own external review



Simon Bevan found auditing E&Y to be a great challenge

**"YOU'VE BEEN** appointed to audit Ernst & Young? That's a bit strange, you two compete."

This was a typical reaction from the managing partner of one of my professional practice clients when our appointment as first auditors of Ernst & Young's UK partnership accounts was announced earlier this year.

My firm acts as adviser to a large number of professional partnerships, including some of the most reputable firms in law, surveying and consulting. We add value to our clients, not simply because we are good accountants who take a pride in understanding business and growth dynamics. Of equal importance is the experience of being a partner in a successful growing practice: this gives us an empathy with that most eccentric of business vehicles, the partnership.

When the opportunity came to tender for Ernst & Young, we were flattered, and we were excited. However, could we add value? BDO prides itself on an unequivocal focus on growing businesses and the entrepreneurs behind them. E&Y

is certainly a growing business and has the justifiable reputation of being the most entrepreneurial of the very large business advisory firms. But it is a business advisory firm. What would it want to learn from us?

It became clear during the bid process that it was looking for a firm that would do more than audit the accounts. It wanted an empathetic team to act as a sounding board on accounting matters, but also to offer an informed view on the present and future business issues.

And so we were appointed, and one of the most challenging audits I have ever been involved in commenced.

All auditors appreciate the importance of the mantra "Understand your Client's Business", and we knew that our knowledge of BDO did not guarantee a similar knowledge of Ernst & Young. The two firms do compete in some areas, but there are also many areas where we don't even feature as blips on one another's radar screens.

In particular, E&Y's big-ticket management consulting, corporate finance and corpo-

rate recovery work required review, as did the global shared economic interests between various firms within Ernst & Young International and the professional indemnity insurance position with both global and UK captives. We had experience of these areas, but it took our audit to give us understanding.

Working with professional practices requires an understanding of the partnership dynamic. Like a public company, they have many owners, but each owner works in the business. Each partner delegates a large amount of management responsibility to others, but expects to be kept informed of how the business is doing, and fairly regularly. And, of course, each partnership deals with these issues differently. I believe that partnerships, and especially large partnerships, have grappled with, and resolved, the issues of corporate governance before it ever became a term of art.

A vital part of our work, therefore, was the need to recognise that special accounting concept that applies to partnerships: equity between partners and between generations of partners. E&Y produces a revealing annual report. Although piecemeal, its accounts are unashamedly those of a partnership. What does this mean? The way I have always thought of it is that partnerships should report to partners on a "true and equitable" basis. That is how I like to be treated as a partner in BDO. This is also something that E&Y's chairman, Nick Land, is very clear on.

In addition to promoting its open culture, one of E&Y's stated objectives in appointing external auditors was to prepare the business for the inevitable need for an audit on future con-

## A decision based on Merrett?

TODAY sees the first set of accounts to be issued by Ernst & Young with an independent auditor's report attached. As you can imagine there was tough competition when the post of auditor was up for grabs last year. BDO Stoy Hayward won it.

But one of the other firms going for the job was Robson Rhodes. Unfortunately, one of the events in the past few years that is etched on E&Y's psyche is the amount of cash it had to pay out after a court decision over Merrett, the Lloyd's broker. The lead expert witness in the case against E&Y was Frank Atwood of Robson Rhodes. And who should be leading Robson Rhodes at the beauty parade for the E&Y audit post? The same Frank Atwood.

**Heirless**

DOWN at the English ICA headquarters at Moorgate Place there are distinct worries that the cupboard is bare. Recent years have seen a strong line-up in the presidential stakes. This year's president, Chris Swinson of BDO Stoy Hayward, can only be described as heavyweight. Next year's is Dame Sheila Masters, KPMG partner and

number two on the Court of the Bank of England. Then there is Graham Ward, the robust head of energy at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Who will follow this trinity? The word is not only that no one has been put forward but that there is no one left on the council who could march up. The nominations committee is believed to be looking at bringing an outsider in for the first time in its history.

**Artistic licence**

THE Birmingham office of Ernst & Young is celebrating in style. It is sponsoring a huge exhibition of one of Birmingham's lesser-known famous sons, the Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones. And they are following the pattern of part sponsorship of Cézanne and Bonnard at the Tate Gallery.

Few of Birmingham's best and brightest will not have dined at the City Art Galleries with E&Y partners by the time it closes in January.

But it is particularly proud of the fact that the exhibition started at the Metropolitan Museum and will move on to the Musée D'Orsay, thus allowing them to parade the show under the "New York, Birmingham, Paris" banner of which it is justly proud.

ROBERT BRUCE

# Clouds on the horizon after the gold rush

ANYONE who doubted the strength of the large accountancy firms should take a look at the summary of the past five years' figures in the back of the accounts of Ernst & Young, which are published today. It shows that in 1994, which is not that long ago, fee income stood at £385 million. This year the figure is £633 million. It is an extraordinary record of growth. In the same time the average profit per partner has risen from £177,000 to £308,000.

The partner figures may look small compared with those at the largest law firms. But the figures overall underline just how strong growth in the accountancy and professional services business has been in recent times. In the accounts Nick Land, E&Y's chairman, argues that it is the result of investment: "It is now six years since we began the process of fundamentally changing many aspects of the firm, in anticipation of the significant changes that would affect the business world for much of the late 1990s and beyond."




ROBERT BRUCE

During that time, this process of change has brought substantial benefits to our business."

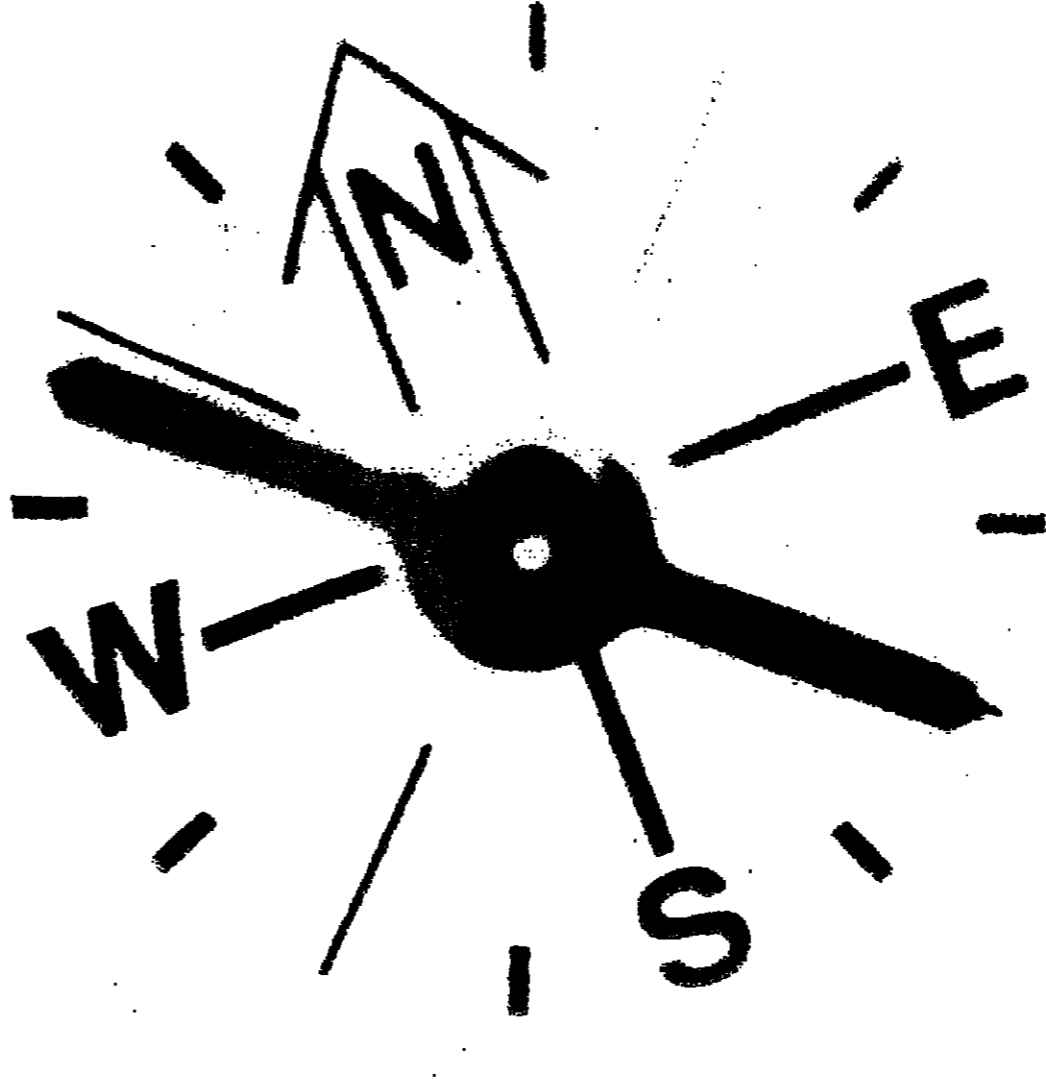
That, on the surface, is what is happening at all the huge accounting firms. But there is another reason and it is to do with changes in the way companies see themselves. Over the past decade, Land would argue, "companies have realised that they cannot be islands". What he means by that is that they have decided that they cannot be self-sufficient. The best ideas and innovations do not all come from inside. The source of a competitive advantage can lie outside the business. Where a company is trying to gain its competitive advantage is via its supply chain perhaps, or through bright ideas and innovations from outside.

This has obviously suited the accounting firms. They pride themselves on being full of bright ideas. And the real change in the process over the past decade or so has been that they have organised themselves in such a way that bright ideas and knowledge can be provided in a formal way to clients as part of the process.

"Accounting firms," Land argues, "have abundant intellectual capital. Companies are desperate for new ideas and competitive advantage and so accounting firms do very well." So if there is a secret



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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name and price per unit. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

Cerruti Image advertisement featuring a man in a suit and the text 'The world needs more dreamers'.

Vertical sidebar on the right edge containing various advertisements and notices, including 'ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES', 'BUILDING MATERIALS', and 'CONSTRUCTION'.

كندا من الأصل

Equities extend losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, Pubs & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, ELECTRICITY, BUILDING MATERIALS, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, RETAILERS, FOOD, WATER, RETAILERS, GENERAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table of stock prices categorized by industry: PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, MEDIA, SHORTS (under 5 years), INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIAN (5 to 15 years), UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at, SUPPORT SERVICES.

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Table of financial data including SHORTS (under 5 years), INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIAN (5 to 15 years), UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at, SUPPORT SERVICES.



DANCE  
Shapely, the  
Franklin Ballet  
in London  
PAGE 40

# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE  
Robert Wilson  
digs deep in  
Strindberg  
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## Torso, talent and a brain to match

No wonder that Courtney Love finds Edward Norton congenial. Lesley O'Toole meets Hollywood's new hunk

It must be dispiriting for a young actor when teenage girls run a mile to get away from him. That happened to Edward Norton when his debut film, *Primal Fear*, was released on video a couple of years ago. "They would scream and run away when they saw me. That is extremely disconcerting when you think they are going to scream and run right at you. I'd be thinking: 'I guess I took the wrong kind of part.'"

His latest screen incarnation — a sickening neo-Nazi skinhead — is eliciting equally feverish female reactions in America. "Every woman was drooling over his body," said an English actress who attended the Los Angeles premiere of *American History X*.

Norton looks down at his shoes in embarrassment. "It's the furthest I've ever gone away from myself, physically," he says with characteristic understatement of the well-defined muscle-tone displayed in the film. But the physique is matched by fine acting, and Norton's performance should earn him his second Academy Award nomination (his first was for *Primal Fear*).

The self-effacing Norton will concede that this is "the performance and the film I think I'm most proud of. It's not a story about skinhead culture per se; it's about a family in crisis in Los Angeles."

His own enthusiasm is tempered somewhat by the controversy surrounding the film, which will be released in Britain next year. Its British director, Tony Kaye — best known for the innovative visuals of his commercials — does not agree with the film's final cut. After trying unsuccessfully to have his name removed from the credits, Kaye took out a series of cryptic advertisements in the Hollywood trade press

begging support from his cast. Norton, meanwhile, is keen to refute rumours that the version released was his own edit, as reported in America. "There's no 'my version'. This is the last version Tony gave them. People in the industry know about Tony's compulsion with hype art and the fact that he likes to create controversy, but I don't think anyone thought he would do it around a really good piece of his own work."

**'Always there are pressures to move away from acting, which is a very long-odds lifestyle'**

*American History X* is certainly a better film than Norton's current release, *Rounders*. It is the third film directed by a respected maverick of the independent film world, John Dahl, whose *The Last Seduction* and *Red Rock West* made stars of Linda Fiorentino and Nicolas Cage.

Norton says he was "very excited" to work with Dahl. "He's a real director, not a journeyman. He has a very distinct visual style and sensibility which I've liked in all his movies. That combined with the script and the opportunity to work with Matt Damon suggested this would be a high quality experience."

He characterises his screen partnership with Damon in *Rounders* as that of "good friends, but friends who have

moved on and are slightly out of sync. In his own weird way, I think Worm helps free Mike to be what he's supposed to be, and I really like that theme. I like the idea of people pushing you and giving you the courage to take the risks you need to take to be happy."

Has Norton had to be pushed in real life to take risks? "Yes, and I have done that for other people too. There are always pressures that make you want to move away from acting, which is usually a very long-odds lifestyle."

Norton calls Worm "a cowboy philosopher, a renegade. I did really relate to him, not because I think he's like me, but because he is the charming guy we have all run into. He makes everything seem exciting — but then you find yourself thinking: 'How did I get involved in this?'"

As always, Norton's performance is seamless: he becomes the character so completely that one forgets this is an actor playing a role. "That's the thrill of it for me. That is the compulsive interest I have in being an actor. I enjoy submerging myself in different realms of experience."

"It's not about hauling up my own experiences or being myself. I am myself every day. I don't need to explore that. I'd rather be an empathetic sponge for other characters."

Other directors Norton admires and has worked with include Woody Allen and Milos Forman. "I did *The People vs Larry Flynt* not because I thought it was an important film, but because I would carry Milos Forman's lunch box if he asked me to. I would put him and Woody Allen in my list of top five favourite filmmakers of all time."

Not surprisingly for a highly educated actor (he read history at university and speaks



Edward Norton: the row about his new film, *American History X*, won't harm his chances of winning an Oscar nomination

Japanese). Norton's passion is the theatre. He is a board member of the Signature Theatre Company which, like most in New York, wages what Norton terms "a constant funding battle" — no doubt partly alleviated by financial help from the actor himself.

He knew the American playwright Edward Albee, who refused to comment on him in one of his plays when Signature staged it. Enthralled by his fellow cast-mates and the company in general, Norton joined — and was soon elected to the board. "I do feel that, al-

most without exception, the actors I have really admired have come from a theatrical background," he says.

One exception is the rock singer Courtney Love, with whom Norton worked on *The People vs Larry Flynt*. Their relationship is an open secret in Hollywood, but one which the notoriously private Norton refuses to comment on. He did, though, take an unusually public step recently, by writing to *The New Yorker* in response to an unflattering piece that the magazine ran about Love. He will confirm as

much, although he will not mention Love's name as the subject of the offending article.

"That had to do with the fact that I am friends with the person who was the victim of an absurdly sexist and intellectually shallow piece of writing. It was an example of a really worrying trend in journalism, which is that tabloids have become the arbiters of legitimate news. That really cheap unconstructed tabloid stuff now filters right through to the likes of American newspapers like *USA Today* and *The New York Times*."

It was *USA Today* that printed details of a birthday party Love threw for Norton at a Los Angeles hotel earlier this year — at which guests reportedly included a bevy of credible Hollywood stars and, oddly, the Spice Girls. Are the girls close intimates of his? "I don't know what you're talking about," he deadpans, then laughs loudly. Norton, it seems, does not take himself quite as seriously as he would like us to think.

● *Rounders* is on general release in Britain

## Novel angel delight

**■ CITY OF ANGELS**  
*Warner, 12, 1998*  
NICOLAS CAGE, an angel on the lookout for human suffering, falls under the spell of LA heart surgeon Meg Ryan, and assumes human form. Ten years ago Wim Wenders's art-house hit *Wings of Desire*, set in Berlin, beguiled many audiences with some of this plot. Now Hollywood has assembled a remake, pushing the material closer to the mainstream, but still maintaining enough poetic elements to single out the film as something different. It's altogether something of a surprise from director Brad Silberling.

**■ GREAT EXPECTATIONS**  
*Fox Pathe, 15, 1997*  
DICKENS'S novel adopts bizarre and unrewarding modern clothes in this new film by Alfonso Cuarón, the Mexican director of *A Little Princess*. Ethan Hawke is the hero who helps a shackled convict in ear-

## NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO

ly life, falls for the beautiful niece of a rich old woman, and finds bittersweet success as an artist in New York. Gwyneth Paltrow dangles her beauty before the cameras; Anne Bancroft chews the scenery as the reclusive Robert De Niro comes and goes as the convict. But nothing really makes an impact. Available to rent.

**■ SCREAM 2**  
*Buena Vista, 18, 1998*  
HORROR maestro Wes Craven and writer Kevin Williamson serve up a bumper bundle of ghoulish murders. Post-Modern in-jokes and films within films, based on the formula of their 1996 hit. Stomachs Neve Campbell and Jamie Kennedy are now in Ohio, where a rash of copycat killings breaks out, and suspects gather like flies. The game is not quite as exhilarating as before, but then sequels are never as good as the original. Available to rent.

**■ TALKING HEADS 2**  
*BBC, 12, 1998*  
"ONE has to remember that *joie de vivre* has never been my strong point," Alan Bennett wrote in the *Radio Times*. Very true, though the amount of quiet misery packed into these six new monologues, recently televised and now available to buy, still takes the breath away. So does the controlled use of language, the skills of performers like Patricia Routledge and Thora Hird, and the intensity of the viewing experience.

**■ THE WEDDING SINGER**  
*Entertainment, 12, 1998*  
HOW do you get two people obviously meant for each other to realise this themselves, free themselves from entanglements, and tie the knot? This is an age-old problem in romantic comedy, but there's nothing stale about its treatment in Frank Corasi's exuberant film starring Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler. He's a performer at weddings and bar mitzvahs, she's a waitress and miraculously, both seem like real people. Available to rent.

DAVID SINCLAIR GEOFF BROWN

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**THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES**  
It's in the blood

AND AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW

## Cliff struts his funky stuff

It is eight o'clock on the eighth night of Cliff Richard's 22-date residency at the Albert Hall, and bingo halls across the land are already feeling the pinch. Outside the venue the coach drivers snatch forty winks. Inside, serried ranks of women with first-hand memories of Richard's 40-year career and, in many cases, well beyond, patiently await the first glimpse of their idol.

Then, as the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra strikes a long, dramatic note, the 58-year-old singer slowly rises, with a theatrical flourish, from beneath the centre of the circular stage. Wearing a pristine white suit, he stands for a moment, arms aloft, amid a swirling cloud of dry ice. The effect is an odd combination of *Saturday Night Fever* and *Dracula* rising from the grave. "God is watching us from a distance," he sings in the Julie Gold song *From a Distance* — his opening number and a minor hit for him in 1990 — after which he wishes everyone present a nice evening.

The show which unfolds over the next two and three-quarter hours is more light entertainment than pop, let alone rock'n'roll. The many ballads, such as *Miss You Nights* and *Bob Carlisle's* American hit *Butterfly Kisses*, are dispatched in his light, accurate tenor with all the earnest sentimentality you would expect.

But even vintage uptempo numbers such as *Do You Wanna Dance* and his best-ever single, *It'll Be Me* — now all of 36 years old — are hobbled by staggeringly innocuous ar-

**POP**  
**Cliff Richard**  
Albert Hall.

*As I Wanna Be*. His determination to live in the present rather than constantly hark back to past triumphs eventually pays dividends, and his enthusiasm for the R&B-influenced arrangement of the title song and a cool-gospel workout called *The Miracle* is contagious.

But, like a compass returning to magnetic North, the show inevitably swings back to old standbys including the likes of *We Don't Talk Anymore*, *Daddy's Home* and *Devil Woman*, the latter prompting Richard to throw some worryingly creaky stalking-cat shapes.

He leaves the stage floor littered with confetti, his arms piled up with gifts from the fans: roses, balloons, flowers, a bottle of liqueur. The doors open and everyone floods out. Only another 24 nights to go.

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**VICTORY**

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Jennifer Lopez, as a federal marshal, and George Clooney, as a laidback criminal, fall sweetly in love in Steven Soderbergh's *Out of Sight*

# Hooked on a felon

**NEW MOVIES: George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez**  
delight in the excellent *Out of Sight*, says Geoff Brown

You sit in the Pepsi Imax Trocadero cinema wearing a headset that makes you resemble a cross between a motorbike dispatch rider and a cast member of *Star Trek*. The lights go down and the bombardment starts. Rock chip-pings and dinosaur jaws leap from the huge screen in front, seven storeys high, and dangle themselves before your eyes. *T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous*, a 40-minute 3-D showpiece for the Imax screen, offers the week's silliest spectacle. Where else can you reach out to stroke the bumps of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, or see 3-D photography lavished on something as dull as a lavatory door?

But all the technical gimmicks in the world cannot compete with people power. Consider George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez in *Out of Sight*, the film of the week: they leap from the screen simply through force of strong acting, charisma, and sexual tension. Like *Get Shorty* and *Jackie Brown*, this is an adaptation of an Elmore Leonard novel, and it is the most energetic and sophisticated to date.

Clooney has not had an easy time finding his niche as a big-screen leading man, least of all in *Batman & Robin*. But Leonard's character of Jack Foley is a snug fit. A bank robber, persistently behind bars, he is debonair and devil-may-care; so easygoing, indeed, that his stride is unbroken even when circumstances force him to escape from jail by sharing the boot of the getaway car with a federal marshal named Karen Sisco.

This is Jennifer Lopez, sprunkily and beautifully rising star of *Anaconda* and *U-Turn*. The two chat and chafe, planting the seeds of a mutual fascination that grows throughout the film. She sets her sights on bringing him to justice. He sets his on a billionaire's uncut diamonds, and their paths cross time and again in the crazy way we have learnt to expect in films of Leonard's novels. Every street, bar or hotel room brings some offbeat character or exchange, although nothing can top the central absurdity of a laidback criminal and a rigid federal marshal falling sweetly in love.

The absurdity is made extra-delicious by Steven Soderbergh's direction. The young talent who burst upon the world in 1989 with *sex, lies & videotape* had been getting into something of a tangle, making films that were either

too muted or too waywardly experimental. But here he joyfully finds his feet. He keeps the narrative hurtling forwards while dextrously weaving between past and present. The images freeze, the camera zooms, the editing jolts us from one shot to the next; but whatever happens happens naturally, keyed to the rhythms of the spunky dialogue, the retro music, or the wists of fate that lead the characters such a merry dance.

Among this fancy directorial footwork, there is still ample room for actors to flourish. Clooney and Lopez have never been better. Others sink their teeth with glee into Leonard's eccentric world. Ving Rhames is particularly delicious as Foley's cool and careful accomplice, a born-again Christian, anxious for Foley to shed thoughts of Karen and press on with their last big crime.

Placed alongside the dazzling *Out of Sight*, *The Negotiator* looks almost as prehistoric as the creatures in *T-Rex*. It certainly moves like a dinosaur, taking two hours and 20 minutes to get through a plot far better told in an hour-and-a-half. Buried inside the lumbering body is a decent suspense thriller about a hostage negotiator who takes hostages himself to prove his innocence in a case of murder and embezzlement. But how can you keep scenes taut when the camera keeps wandering up the tower of the Chicago Internal Affairs Division, where helicopters circle like vultures before swooping down on the twentieth floor for a feast of blood and bullets? Every action scene is blown up out of all proportion.

At least the main actors have the personality to fill the available space. Samuel L. Jackson is the hostage negotiator driven to desperation after being framed for his teammate's death. "I do not want to

talk to anyone except Chris Sabian," he shouts down the phone from the hostage room (he role calls for a lot of shouting). Chris Sabian? Sounds like some 1960s pop star. Luckily he proves to be Kevin Spacey, rushed to the scene in a blue pullover to lend his sardonic voice and perfect timing to the business at hand. Sabian once talked to a hostage, we are told, for 55 hours; it is to be hoped that his dialogue then was better than the babble served up by screenwriters James DeMonaco and Kevin Fox. The director, F. Gary Gray, shapes a few tense moments among the characters; not enough, though, to stop the film toppling over from its bulk.

So how does a dinosaur look in 3-D? Not very frightening. For all its technical finesse, *T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous*, directed by Brett Leonard, never surmounts the major oddity of 3-D vision: the sense of depth is exaggerated at the expense of volume. Characters, human or otherwise, lack body. The dino can roar and chomp all they want; they still look like toys, to stroke and pet. There is a certain charm in this, as in the prop of a Tyrannosaurus egg, which looks like a loaf of bread. There is no charm at all in the dramatic narrative, featuring an imaginative teenage girl wandering through the museum where her palaeontologist father works. As a fairground thrill, the film can only be rated fair.

From dinosaurs, we move up the chain to *The Wisdom of Crocodiles*, although this arty British movie contains no crocodile, not even in the form of a handbag. The title derives from a phrase in Francis Bacon's essays: "It is the wisdom of crocodiles, that shed tears when they would devour." The tear-shedder here is a handsome vampire (Jude Law), searching London for perfect love and the perfect woman, but doomed to disappointment by his thirst problem.

"Don't be afraid," he says, after dining on Elina Lowensohn's neck. Throughout, Law copes well with his part, certainly better than Timothy Spall in his chunky role as the police inspector who lumbers towards his prey. The director, Hong Kong-born Po Chih Leung, has an obvious talent for atmospheric images, although apart from providing an exercise in style, the point of his film proves elusive.

Another foreign director, Maria Ripoll, flexes her muscles on British soil in the wayward but engaging *If Only*. Magic realism comes to swinging 1990s London when the loan of a red umbrella gives a dishevelled actor a chance to turn back the clock and repair his relationship with his penniless girlfriend. This is *Sliding Doors* with a touch of poetry: a mixture that never gels, although lively performances from Douglas Henshall and Lena Headey, and the director's sympathy for human frailties, put you in a mood to be indulgent.

In *Slums of Beverly Hills* the cast alone suggests good times. Alan Arkin, Marisa Tomei, Natasha Lyonne (Woody Allen's daughter in *Everyone Says I Love You*); how could this not be fun? Lyonne is very winning as the adolescent heroine in a downwardly mobile Jewish family, although any delights the players offer must be weighed against the ungainly direction of Tamara Jenkins and the lack of real wit in her script.

For a touch of class, we must look instead to *The Philadelphia Story*, MGM's version of Philip Barry's stage comedy about a swanky wedding that comes unstuck, is now 58 years old. Signs of age are apparent, from the social assumptions to the pinched voice of Katharine Hepburn, repeating her stage role as the brittle bride. But what comedy today could rival the shapely lines, the suave playing, or the gossamer touch of director George Cukor?

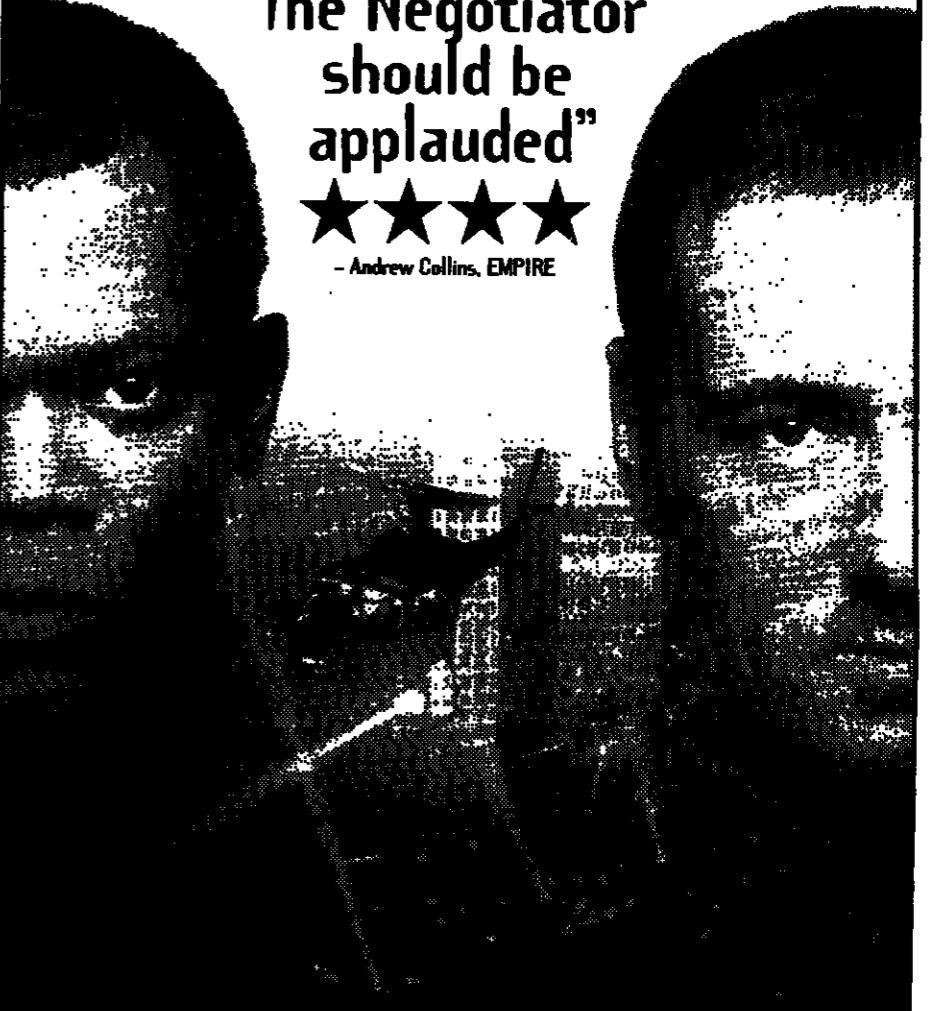
"He's not a tower of strength, he's just a tower," says sardonic former hubby Cary Grant, viewing his bland replacement. This film is a garden of delights.

**"High-octane thriller..."**  
- Mariella Frostrup, NEWS OF THE WORLD  
**"...that stands head and shoulders above the pack"**  
- Caroline Westbrook, SKY MAGAZINE

**"You're in the presence of two of today's greatest actors"**  
- J.B. MAXIM  
**"Spacey turns in a performance beyond acting"**  
- THE FACE  
**"Jackson gives his best performance since *Pulp Fiction*"**  
- UNTOLD MAGAZINE

**"GREAT ACTION, GREAT ACTORS, GREAT FILM!"**  
- Colin Kennedy, SMASH HITS

**"The Negotiator should be applauded"**  
★★★★★  
- Andrew Collins, EMPIRE



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## 'Scorching stuff'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**OUT OF SIGHT**  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: A film that will keep everyone happy. Romantic thrillers don't come much better than this.  
Carl Clark, 19: George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez have scorching screen chemistry. I cannot recommend this movie highly enough.  
Charlotte Dailey, 19: The director, Steven Soderbergh, has given us a fantastic romantic thriller. You are guaranteed a good time.

Alison Juliard, 20: Unmissable. The best film not only of this week, but the past month.

**THE SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
Leslie: Touching and funny. The screenplay brims with originality and heart.  
Carl: I was pleasantly surprised by this funny, thoughtful comedy. The soundtrack was too funny for words.  
Charlotte: Consistently funny. Marisa Tomei has comic timing down to a tee.  
Alison: The entire cast shines. The 1970s have never looked so cool.



**THE NEGOTIATOR**  
Leslie: Kevin Spacey and Samuel L. Jackson are flawless. Carl: Starts off well, but becomes formulaic and tired.  
Charlotte: Tedious with a capital T.  
Alison: Without Spacey and Jackson it would be nothing. Their performances make this an above-average thriller.

## A puppy-dog's tales

Despite his show's title, *Love Bites*, in Jeff Green's world love does not bite. But it does go shopping, guarantee a supply of clean underpants and make ill-advised attempts to discover the male G-spot.

Love has been living under the Green roof for 18 months now and, much as he might like it being there, he has decided that it makes rather good food for comedy. And so, with its consent, and the accumulated experience of his parent's five marriages, he has adopted it as his straight man. Jeff Green bites love: love ends up looking the worse for wear.

[This is the 1990s, thirtysomething version of "Take my wife please!": good old gender warfare stuff. There is much discussion of drunkenness, and man's fatal relationship with his own couch. In his grumbings on female sexual mores, Green blames *Cosmopolitan* for teaching women to expect the impossible, and to lay the fault for everything at the feet of men. Perhaps one could blame Green for reading *Cosmopolitan* in the first place, for his is a critique of woman as seen through the pages of a glossy magazine: sexually demanding choco-holics who float candles in the bath and wax their bikini line.

Beneath all the apparent anti-feminist joshing, though, Green's humour is aimed more at the bewilderment of the male than the evils of the female. Following a relationship from the moment their eyes meet across a crowded room and the man first thinks "I could make you the unhappiest woman alive", to the bitter end when he would rather die with a stone through his heart than endure a dosage of fish paste and matching track-suits, Green shows how women constantly defy men's expectations of them, and men habitually blame women for their own shortcomings.

On a rather nervous opening night, the material actually worked best away from the theme of love. Possibly the best sequence was about the words written around the outside of pound coins; and his impression of wasps being menaced by a Scotsman is deeply charming.

It seems strange that someone who grew up with four older sisters should be so fazed by the vagaries of woman-kind, but then, as he points out, sisters are a breed apart; there aren't many other women who will pin you to the ground and spit in your mouth to make you do the washing up.

HETTIE JUDAH

LISTINGS

Mahler's Resurrection

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

LONDON

STEVE REICH: The minimalist composer's expressive Debut Song gives its title to this concert by the City of London Sinfonia...

MAHLER AND VIENNA: The season continues with a single orchestral work: Mahler's magnificent Second Symphony (Resurrection)...



Music by Steve Reich is played at the Barbican

CHAMBER MUSIC: The Leipzig String Quartet makes a welcome visit with a concert featuring Beethoven and Janacek...

ELSEWHERE: BIRMINGHAM: The City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus under its director Simon Halsey presents an evening of a cappella music...

BOXTON: In The Resurrectionist, four good Catholic boys go wild in Rockdale while Mum is back in Ireland...

MANCHESTER: The first concert here today (1.15pm) is by the Cambridge and Leeds Ladies who perform two Beethoven sonatas...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

- THE BEST OF TIMES: The Bridwell Theatre's programme of Jerry Herman songs from La Cage aux Femmes, Mame, Mack and Me!, and Hello, Dolly! transfers to the West End...
HALF MOON: Set in a Fitzrovia pub during the Falklands War...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

- Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies
NEW RELEASES: ANGEL SHARKS (15): Heists, Bushy French film about restless lawbreakers on the Riviera...
CURRENT: BLADE (18): Extravagant, jumbled horror fantasy...

ARTS



Neurotic muscle: Thierry Guiderdoni in Enemy in the Figure, William Forsythe's brutalist technology ballet

MUSIC

Marco Polo the opera

Threnody from the cutting edge

Before William Forsythe took over as artistic director in 1994, the Frankfurt Ballet was a modest provincial German ballet company. Today it is on the cutting edge of modern ballet, the place where the future of the art form is being mapped out...
Hypothetical Stream 2 (1997) is a piece of pure dance in the Cunningham mould, performed by nine dancers...

DEBRA CRAINE

I have watched Tan Dun make music from a piece of paper and his own breath. It isn't easy to square the fragile magic of those eerie sounds with a monstrous work of propaganda-exotica like Heaven, Earth, Mankind...

Voices of the East

pull of a strong story was lost. Given its operatic libretto, which does not easily yield its secrets (especially those in Chinese), it struggled as a concert work...

Chinese promise fulfilled
It is almost 400 years since Western music was first taken to China, and nearly a century since the first symphony orchestra was established there...

CONCERT
China National Symphony Orchestra
Queen Elizabeth Hall

ART GALLERIES

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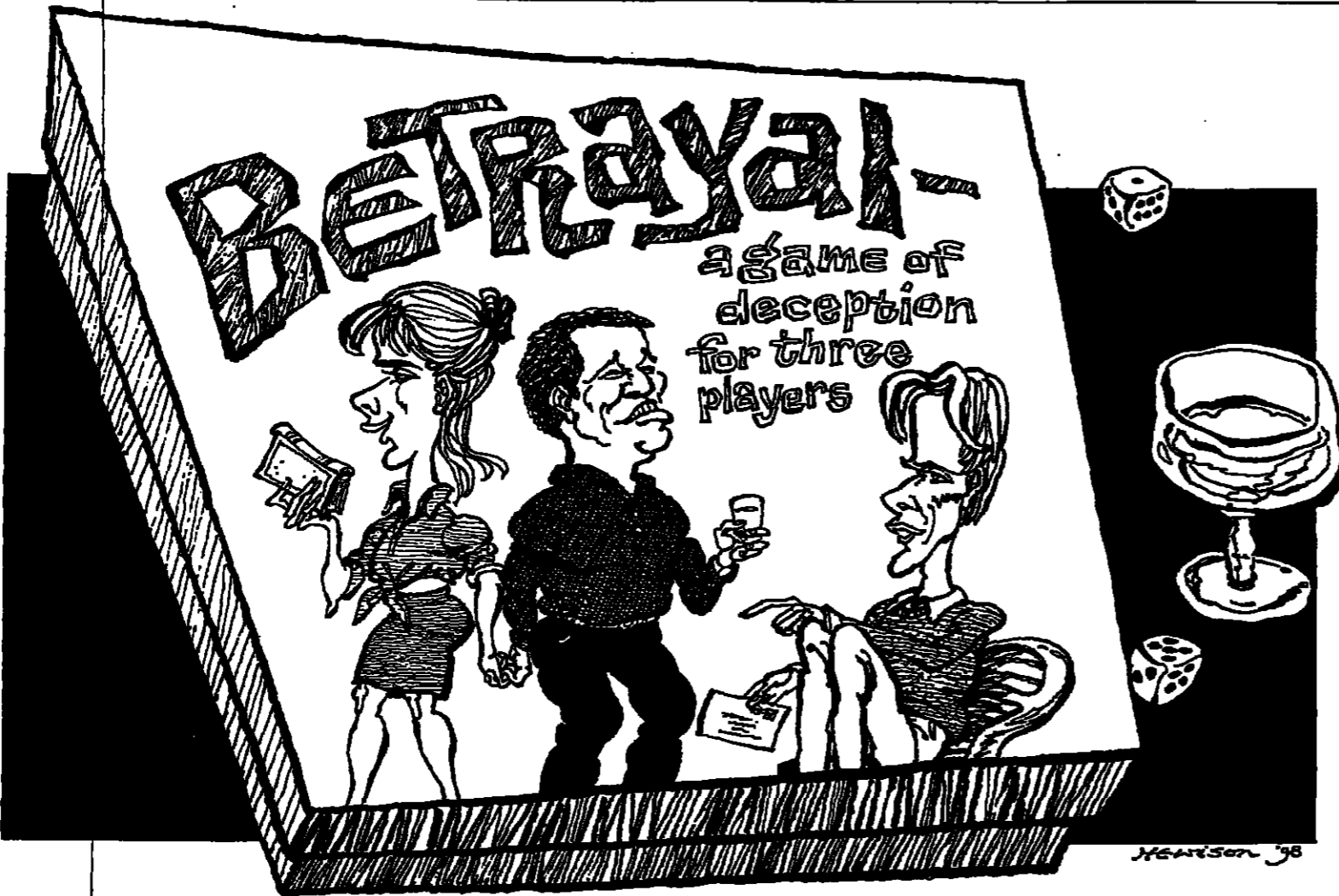


THEATRE  
Modern classic revived

ARTS

CLASSICAL CDS  
Vienna Opera celebration

Strindberg finds his soulmate in Wilson



Three's a crowd: Imogen Stubbs, Douglas Hodge and Anthony Calf in Harold Pinter's dense, pain-filled study of the subtleties of friendship

Games Pinter plays

When Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* appeared in 1978, it received some of the most disgraceful reviews in theatrical history. To critics earnestly obsessed with the vagaries of British society, Peter Hall's production seemed a shameless throwback to an era when drama preferred to concern itself with adulterous husbands, other women and interminably eternal triangles. Well, the whirligig of time has certainly brought in his revenges. Here is the selfsame *Betrayal*, gain staged in the Lyttelton by a director of the National and, in the view of the distinguished voters asked by the theatre for their millennial preferences, one of the century's finest plays. Nor has it dwindled into that drear

thing, a respectable classic. So up-to-date do Pinter's text and Trevor Nunn's revival feel that (aside from a reference to the obscurity of Kilburn) there is no strain in updating the action from 1970s to 1990s literary London. The play now opens in 1998, with Imogen Stubbs's black-bloused Emma and Douglas Hodge's black-jacketed Jerry in their NW6 love-nest, glumly acknowledging the end of an affair that began in 1989. In nine scenes that mostly backpedal through time to that ominous moment, Pinter chronicles the progress and regress of a love made doubly dangerous and trebly intricate by one small fact. Emma's husband, Anthony Calf's Robert, is Jerry's best friend, and, as the posters advertising the play

THEATRE  
*Betrayal*  
Lyttelton

wryly emphasize. Jerry was best man at their wedding. This preference for the anticlockwise is not just tricky, as some reviewers originally thought, but a way of substituting "what next?" in our minds, thus deepening and darkening the play. Central to this effort is Jerry's last-gasp discovery that Robert has known about the affair for years and not merely said nothing, but continued with their regular lunches and games of squash. Whether this is because the

cuckold is covering up a clandestine affair himself, or because he does not wish to lose a friend he values more than his wife, are only some of the questions that hover in an air so quiet yet so charged you yearn for a storm to break it. Pinter being Pinter, thunder and lightning never materialise: not even when Stubbs's fine, warm Emma is unstoppably quivering as Calf's cool, slightly sadistic Robert prides the truth from her, nor when Hodge's streetwise-seeming Jerry squirms and abjectly huddles into himself at his own emotional Waterloo. I don't see why the setting is a concrete bunker with tiny filmed projections (a painting here, a dartboard there), and in the gloriously written, ironically upbeat last scene I think

Hodge would stem the wrong kind of laughter if he downplayed the lipiness. But the acting, the lighting, everything else serves to prove the play the masterpiece it always was. The language is spare and simple, the states of mind on show confused, shifting, elusive, and, as Pinter penetrates further and further into the politics of betrayal and the subtleties of friendship, almost unbelievably dense. I don't think there is a line that does not express pain, regret, anger, alarm, desire, remorse or some blend of those emotions. Can you name a play that says so little and implies so much?  
BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE  
This review appeared in some editions of The Times yesterday

This month saw Robert Wilson in Belfast discussing his career in front of a festival audience already seduced by his *Saints and Sinners* last year, and about to face his *Monsters of Grace*. But Wilson had hotfooted it from Stockholm, where he had just fulfilled a long-awaited appointment with August Strindberg. After four years of negotiations with the City Theatre, Wilson's new production — in Swedish — of *A Dream Play* opened in Stockholm to a prolonged standing ovation. Strindberg had, of course, been waiting for Wilson for almost a century. Three years ago Robert Lepage's *Dream Play* at Stockholm's Royal Dramatic Theatre captured wonderfully in its topsy-turvy cube design the claustrophobic and vertiginous world of Strindberg's favourite, and most problematic, play. But the true soulmate was yet to come. Strindberg himself wrote of the play's "mixture of memories, experiences, free fancies, incongruities and improvisations". It could well be a description of the work of Wilson himself.

Dream Play  
Stockholm

Wilson's characteristic freeze-and-dissolve stagecraft with its spare, pungent lighting seemed a reinvention of Strindberg's own fascination

with the "dissolving views" or "transformation pictures" of lantern-slides. And his immaculately mimetic gesture and movement becomes a physical realisation of those obsessive and poignant human repetitions within the *Dream Play*'s kaleidoscope of episodes: the idiosyncrasies of fisherman and glazier; Kristin (Eva Stenson) with her endless pasting; the young officer (Henrik Rafielson) and his desperate cries of "Viktoria!" themes and variations of the play and of the production. But Wilson will not allow his audience to be mesmerised for long. There are stunning set-pieces: the Fingal's Cave and Foulstrand furnace scenes seem to be conflated here within a single fiery industrial brickyard. The slow-motion bricklaying gradually, and movingly, takes on a sense of sacramental transformation. And Wilson allows himself one supreme moment of self-indulgence: the graduation ceremony is rehearsed in a milk-bay with three life-size cows — one production line is perhaps, after all, much the same as another. Strindberg, I suspect, would have relished both Wilson's laconic humour and his visual virtuosity; would have loved it, too, when, at the end, after facing the audience as if for a period group photograph in front of the old house, all his foolish, suffering "poor people" let go their little earthly icons — the fishing net, the top hat, the rose — and watch them levitate into the air. No one quite knows where this beautiful, compassionate and thought-provoking *Dream Play* is bound for next, but it will run in Stockholm until at least the end of January.

HILARY FINCH



Magdalena Eshaya and Lasse Pettersson in Robert Wilson's stunning Strindberg staging

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: RCA celebrates 30 years of the Vienna State Opera with five live recordings from Austrian radio. Plus some irresistible Mozart

Five operas on RCA, all taken from live Austrian Radio broadcasts, chart 30 years of the Vienna State Opera following its reopening in 1955. The first is *Don Giovanni* (7432) 57/72, three CDs, £28.99), which followed *Fidelio* into the house in November of that year. A crack cast was led by the Canadian-born bass-baritone George London in the title role. London, who had begun his career as part of a trio which included Mario Lanza, had made his early operatic name in Vienna. His *Giovanni* as bags of swank, caressing when dealing with Zerlina and full of self-satisfaction in the Champagne Aria.

The cream of Vienna

Erich Kunz, for long one of Vienna's favourite sons, provides the ideal foil as Leporello. Sena Jurinac, on top form, turns Elvira into another of life's victims, while Lisa della Casa, whose tone sometimes turns too hard, is the imperious Anna. Walter Berry and Irmgard Seefried make an almost matchless pair as Masetto and Zerlina. Anton Dermota's Ottavio is further testimony to the years at the Theater an der Wien which the State Opera had spent creating Europe's leading Mozart ensemble.

OPERA

The orchestra under Karl Böhm is often too distant. *Don Giovanni* is sung in German, the custom in those days. When Karajan arrived as artistic manager he changed all that: Vienna was to become an international house, with opera in the original language. He is represented here by the 1963 *Bohème* (57736, two CDs, £19.49) in the famous Zeffirelli production from La Scala, which is still in the house repertoire. The Karajan regime was notable for a series of rows, which took in everyone from politicians to the press. One of the many concerned the choice of tenor for *Bohème*. Di Stefano had been booked, but Karajan insisted on the lighter voiced Gianni Raimondi and he got his way. Raimondi turns in a sweet and

mellifluous performance, but the star is undoubtedly the Mimi of Mirella Freni on her Vienna debut. Karajan, fast and furious in the Café Mornus act, draws every last slow sigh from both Mimi's opening aria and her death scene. Once again the orchestra is set too far back and it is not until the 1969 *Dalibor* (57735, two CDs, £19.49) that it is given proper place. The conductor, Josef Krips, too little revered outside his native country, at times gives Smetana's opera the shimmer of a top-class *Lohegrin*. With its marches and processions *Dalibor* owes quite a bit to Wagner, although the plot of a woman putting on the trousers to spring her lover from prison is *Fidelio* with an unhappy ending. Leonie Rysaneck, occasionally a bit gusty, lacks nothing in passion as the heroine and the title role is taken with gleaming, heroic tone by the almost forgotten Romanian tenor, Ludovic Spiess. This is a fine version of an opera which has no major recording in the present catalogue.

Vienna did not turn out to be the city of Lorin Maazel's dreams during his brief tenure as artistic director, any more than it had for Karajan. One of the prime sources of dispute was his insistence on bringing more 20th-century opera into the repertoire. Alban Berg's *Lulu* (57734, three CDs, £28.99) was one of his successes in 1983. A video is really needed for the sinuous, animal-like performance of Julia Migenes in the title role. But the large cast contains a number of definitive characterisations, led by Brigitte Fassbänder (Geschwitz), Hans Hotter (Schigolch) and Theo Adam (Schön). Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* (57733, two CDs, £19.49) in 1984 is notable for the conducting of Claudio Abbado, who was to take over the helm from Maazel, and the mature, dignified singing of Renato Bruson in the title role. He is well supported by Ruggero Raimondi's Fiesco, but Ricciarelli's Amelia is no substitute for Freni in Abbado's Scala recording.

VOCAL

MOZART  
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an folksong in *An Chloe* to the accompaniment of a miniature piano sonata. Considering what we know of Mozart himself, the humorous songs here are perhaps

just a little over-discreet, under-characterised. But that should dissuade nobody from procuring this irresistible disc.  
HILARY FINCH

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# BOOKS

## Young pretenders to the throne

Ian McIntyre is unimpressed by two new accounts of the Regency whose authors remain firmly in the shadows of previous chroniclers of the period

**W**inston Churchill, entertaining colleagues at the Savoy, found one of the dishes placed before them unimpressive. "Pray remove this pudding," he instructed the waiter. "It has no theme."

**HIGH SOCIETY**  
A Social History of the Regency Period, 1788-1830  
By Venetia Murray  
Viking, £20  
ISBN 0 670 85758 0

**PRINCE OF PLEASURE**  
The Prince of Wales and the Making of the Regency  
By Saul David  
Little, Brown, £22.50  
ISBN 0 316 64616 4

is hardly present, so firmly is the spotlight trained on what is going on about him.

The manuscript has not had the undivided attention of David's editor at Little, Brown. He is twice allowed to mis-spell *de rigueur*, and there is an alarming sentence in the first chapter which informs us that George III first came to the throne in 1769. He should not have been permitted to coin the word "retuffal" and I fail to grasp why he should lapse into *Private Eye*-speak and describe Nelson as "optically challenged."

Some of the detail in David's narrative is open to challenge. His view that the other 12 colonies had been lukewarm in their opposition before the Boston Tea Party will not go uncontested in Pennsylvania, Rhode Island or the Carolinas. I also believe he is mistaken in asserting that Sheridan did not know of the Prince's marriage to Mrs Fitzherbert when he spoke in the Commons on April 20, 1787.

Indeed his account of that day is contradictory, because further down the page he has Sheridan visiting Mrs Fitzherbert at the Prince's behest to impress on her that the smallest hint that they were married would ruin them both.

After the Coronation, David presses the fast-forward button and races through the nine-year reign of George IV in ten pages. I think that a pity, particularly as he points out that there has been no major biography for a quarter of a century. No life of this "overgrown hantling of Regency," as Shelley called him, is complete without the story of his preposterous visit to Edinburgh in 1822, orchestrated by Walter Scott.

David reminds us how his subject was seen by his last Prime Minister: "the most extraordinary compound of talent, wit, buffoonery, obstinacy, and good feeling," said Wellington, "that I ever saw in any character in my life." Those wishing to savour that puzzling compound to the full will still want to turn to their Hibbert and their Plumb — even to their Thackeray.

shire Record Office has yielded particularly rich ore, including a hitherto unpublished account by the Prince of the fiasco that was his wedding night. That his bride was filthy was bad enough, but there was more.

Her manners "were not those of a novice," he told Lord Malmesbury. "In talking those liberties natural on these occasions, she said, 'Ah, mon dieu qu'il est gros!', and how should she know this without a previous means of comparison."

David is a young writer, and does not rival Hibbert's skill in weaving together the public and the private. Some of his background material — a passage on prize-fighting, for instance — reads like a digression. There are stretches of narrative where the Prince

IN metro ON SATURDAY  
A twinkling eye for women and writing: science fiction writer Brian Aldiss discusses a career marked by suffering. Also: a new biography of Woody Allen uncovers the autobiographical content in his work, how Romy Music defined Seventies pop, A.S. Byatt reveals how she writes, and *Blackadder* between the covers



A royal buffoon: King George IV, the Duchess of Richmond and Lady Herford in 1820

## A sisterhood destined to shape society

**J**ames Fox achieved a polished blend of social history and whodunnit in his first book, *White Mischief*. His exploration of a murder among white settlers in Kenya was forensic in its cool exactness. This cast of mind is strongly evident in his fine new book, *The Langhorne Sisters*. The sisters may be Fox's grandmother and his great-aunts, but family piety is rarely allowed to blunt the edge of his search for the truth of vanished lives.

**HELEN DUNMORE**  
**THE LANGHORNE SISTERS**  
By James Fox  
Granta, 20  
ISBN 1 85207 071 1



The best-known of the five sisters is Nancy, who became the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons. She was by no means the first public figure among the Langhorne sisters. Irene had achieved stardom as a Southern Belle in Virginia. Later, through Irene's marriage to the artist Dana Gibson, her strong-jawed, virginally sexy image merged with that of the Gibson Girl.

James Fox has drawn on a huge, unpublished cache of correspondence between the sisters. The letters between Nancy and Phyllis tell a story of public fame and intimate disaster. Both left America for second marriages in England; both seem to have been almost incredibly unsuccessful mothers. Three of their sons committed suicide, and other children suffered intense pain. Undoubtedly there was hardness, even ruthlessness in the Langhorne character, and Fox makes no bones about these women's egotism or their carelessness towards those closest to them. His great gift as a biographer, however, is that his clarity never becomes censoriousness. He is always alive to the comedy of human relations. From the disappointed eldest, Lizzie, to the promiscuous but loving youngest, Nora, the sisters are vividly present.

Fox's book is also a portrait of the two societies which these sisters straddled. They moved through Victorian society on a wave of railroad money; they knew all about the need for social ritual in the elaborate taming of fortunes made from raw commerce. In England, they used their American directness and charm as levers to open the tricky oyster of the British Establishment.

Nancy operated best among people who believed that they were destined to set the world

to rights, while absorbing most of its good things to themselves. Her passionate relationship with her Plymouth constituency may have been one of the strongest she ever formed, and Fox shows how it drew out the best in her. She was ferocious on behalf of her constituents and wanted everything for them from nunsery schools to improved housing. And yet she was a rightinging who promoted the appeasement of Germany in the period leading up to the Second World War. Fox believes that Nancy Astor was naive rather than culpable in her attitude to Nazism. He argues that she did not really understand Hitler's aggression, or the threat to Jews in Germany, partly because she shared what he describes as "the general, passive anti-Semitism of the British public". This may be a point where family feeling blurs his own vision.

Fox has the novelist's ability to allow his characters to reveal themselves, and he handles the mass of material with a decisiveness which means we never lose the thread of the story. The quality of the writing is outstanding, whether Fox is slyly remarking on the influx to Cleveland of unwielded, free-loading Sax-Cobourgs and Battenbergs or pinning down the exact tone of Phyllis's American son Peter, marooned at Marlborough and writing out his relation to his mother in "the cilly, powerful, absolutist voice of the besieged adolescent". *The Langhorne Sisters* is a deeply enjoyable and illuminating study of a family in its time.

## Writing to survive

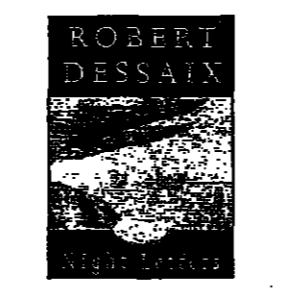
**R**obert Dessaix's *Night Letters* is a poetic masterpiece. Not since Edmund White's richly evocative *Nocturnes For the King of Naples* has a gay novelist infused the themes of love and death with so fine a lyric sensibility.

On finding himself to be HIV positive, the book's Australian protagonist sets off on a journey from Switzerland across northern Italy to Venice. He finds the funeral counterpart to his own meditations on mortality in Venice and writes a series of letters home to a friend. It is within the context of these letters that the novel develops its hypnotic narrative qualities.

*Night Letters* is essentially composed of one man's nocturnal reflections on the nature of time, history and the search for an earthly paradise, then the nature of that exercise is dramatically underscored by other enriching narratives. When the protagonist makes the acquaintance at his hotel of the closeted Professor Eschenbaum, then we are introduced to the story of *The Disappearing Courtisan*. It is through the Professor that we learn the historic intrigue of Donna Scamozzi to have her virgin daughter Camilla married to a wealthy Venetian. Camilla's scheming liaisons lead eventually to a tale of sordid sex and revenge. Gangbanged at the instigation of Lorenzo Cordellini for her infidelities, Camilla falls in love with his son, Alberto. Through the machinations of a magician, Camilla contrives to bring father and son into murderous conflict. Lorenzo mistakenly knifes his son, who is in drag, and as a consequence of her grief for Alberto, Camilla is never seen or heard of again.

Much of the novel's beauty comes from the author's profound reflections on Dante's *Divine Comedy* and his linking the protagonist's experiential journey to that of Dante's passage from the Inferno to the Paradiso. Dante's perception of God as a radiant point in the Universe proves a pivot on which the troubled Australian can endeavour to find rest. "The idea of Point," he writes, "and the relationship between a point and

**JEREMY REED**  
**NIGHT LETTERS**  
By Robert Dessaix  
Arcadia Books, £10.99  
ISBN 1 900850 12 5



straight lines and circles, is one I must contemplate more, instead of thinking constantly about lunch, train timetables and the havoc in my veins."

Nocturnal dialogue between our protagonist and the erudite Professor Eschenbaum leads to the consideration of time in the lives of two famous Venetians: Marco Polo and Casanova. Siding with Casanova on an account of his intense magnification of the moment, something to be vitally lived by those found to be HIV positive, the narrator tells us: "Polo discovered paradise over there, you see, he travelled there and then came back. Casanova discovered paradise in the travelling, if you see what I mean — it wasn't somewhere you could come back from."

Far from being morbid, *Night Letters* offers a message of hope. It is by living in the immediate that life is most purposefully experienced. The narrator is not a person evaluating his life in retrospect, but rather someone intent on engaging with the present and biting into it in the way we would bite into a ripe peach or plum.

The outcome is heroic. Dessaix has written a novel in which poetic and philosophical reflection are compounded into brilliant narrative. Illness is viewed as contingent on the will to live, and the future as it is apprehended by the narrator is open-ended and continuous.

## Hard times for authors

More MAs in writing available! Manchester Metropolitan University is starting a Writing School, which will award postgraduate degrees and will be directed by the poet and Carcanet Press publisher Michael Schmidt. His poetry magazine PN Review will also in future be edited from the school. Hopefuls should get in touch with the English department at the university (0161-247-1756).

Nevertheless, the displaced authors statistics are getting worrying. Last week, quite disgracefully, Oxford University Press sacked all its poets. Now there is more melancholy news. Authors rejoiced recently when Metro rescued the publishers Richard Cohen Books, after it had got into financial difficulties. However, we hear that 80 per cent of the books that Cohen had contracted but not yet published are now going to be dropped. Come on, you prosperous publishers, lend a hand!

BookTrack, the organisation which records sales of books in the shops, has pulled off a coup. From next week, it will include *W H Smith sales in its figures*. *W H Smith was the only major chain that was still not being covered. Now*

Modern "Anti-Culture" which promotes the idiosyncrasy of Western civilisation - nasty white males - bad.

Yours faithfully,  
**SIMON YOUNG**,  
25 Myrna Close,  
London SW19 2HL

Watch out if you are buying a book called *Tear This Heart Out* by Angeles Mastretta, published by Vintage. You may have read it before. It was published as *Mexican Bolero*, in a different translation, by Penguin in 1991.

Last week the ICA entitled a discussion of what the future holds for writers *Wrinkle Free* - never mind an agent, it's a good night cream you need. One of the panellists, fresh-faced agent Jonny Geller, wondered what the connection might be between review coverage and sales; eternally youthful Condé Nast magazine replied by recalling an encounter with the juvenescent Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who maintained that he cared not a fig for reviews, never looked at the review pages, as such things mattered not a tittle... which leaves us wondering why it was that he was so perturbed when we were a little tardy in noticing his last offering.

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# BOOKS

## On the road with a French philosopher

The American way led Simone de Beauvoir from Las Vegas to New York, via a love affair begun in "Chicago's Bowery"

In 1947, when Simone de Beauvoir set out on a lecture tour of the United States, she had just published her first philosophical work. *The Ethics of Ambiguity* (Pour une morale de l'ambiguïté). Fitting for the account she gave of that trip, first published in France the following year as *L'Amérique au jour de jour*, and then in English as *America Day by Day*, has its own ambiguities. This intriguing volume has been out of print since 1952, and is now reissued by Gollancz: now all of her work is available in its entirety.

The American travelogue is a well-developed genre. From Frances Trollope to Jack Kerouac, through Charles Dickens and Bill Bryson: writers set out across that vast land with their eyes sharpened, and readers seem never to tire of these accounts of a country which, in all fairness, should be far too well known to merit such attention. It's not Patagonia. It's not the Hindu Kush. America is ubiquitous as the world falls under the shadow of its flag. It may be because the United States is an invented country that each writer who sees it is able to invent it for him — in this case, of course, her — self.

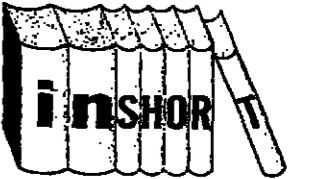
Simone de Beauvoir's account seems, at first reading, straightforward. She makes no claim to an understanding of the postwar society she encounters — segregated by race and coloured by an apparently new perception of an older, more ravaged world across the Atlantic — greater than anyone else's: there is an ingenuousness to her observation. Flying over the ocean, she begins: "Despite all the books I've read, the films, the photographs, the stories, New York is a legendary city in my past: there is no path from the reality to the legend. Across from old Europe, on the threshold of a continent populated by 160 million people, New York belongs to the future. How could I jump wholeheartedly over my own life?"



Erica Wagner

Chicago seems the main goal (though surely only the most passionate infatuation could cause one to write of that fine city on the shores of Lake Michigan: "Beneath the sun, the water of the lake is pure silk and diamonds, and white sailboats glide back and forth — it has the serene luxury of the Côte d'Azur"). Their affair was doomed to fail — she would not leave her

life, bound as it was to her work and to Jean-Paul Sartre's, any more than he would leave his. It is not surprising that de Beauvoir should leave Algren out of this account, meant, as her letters were not, for publication. It is, however, revealing of the division between the writer and what she chooses to write, and of the contradictions that made up a woman who lived her life with both passion and control. The author of *The Second Sex* could also write dismissively: "American women have an overriding need for respect and attention, and if they feel they've been slighted, they owe it to themselves to show it. They don't indulge in passionate outbursts as Slavic women do, but their cold fury is just as dreaded, and it's one of the reasons men find them so tiresome."



### Mining for fact in fiction

GRANITE AND RAINBOW  
By Mitchell Leaska  
Picador, £20  
ISBN 0 330 35436 1  
MITCHELL LEASKA'S critical take on Virginia Woolf is already familiar to Bloomsburians. Now he gives us a biography of a familiar, endlessly fascinating literary conceit, the unreliable narrator. The iridescent rainbow of Woolf's own account of her life in her fiction, essays, letters and diaries flickers over Leaska's hard-hat as he drills through layers of inconsistencies into the hard rock of fact and reality. His analyses of the personal and family tensions that drove Woolf first to try to integrate them in her work and finally to suicide are very disturbing.



Saddled with the expense: horse racing is a passion for most owners, and the dominant image of the sport is a romantic one. But the costs outweigh the profits, as Stan Hey found in his year as a racehorse owner

## Taking leave of his horse sense

One of the great mysteries of this supposedly sane country is why 10,000 very successful people — indeed the figure may be as high as 25,000 — take leave of their senses when they see a racehorse.

Racing horses is a love affair, not a business, says Chris Brasher

Most of them have worked long and hard to amass a large fortune and then they start to "invest" in thoroughbreds which, as sure as night follows day, will shrink that large fortune with great rapidity into a very small fortune. The facts are simple. Buy yourself a racehorse. It does not matter whether it is a yearling destined for the flat or a four-year-old heading for the jumps. And it does not matter if it costs you £10,000 or £50,000 because the result is the same: a complete write-off. Then you put it into training. I am not up-to-date on how much it costs to send a boy to Eton, but there cannot be any change out of £12,000 a year and that is about what it will cost you to put your purchase into training. On average your winnings will net you 25p in the pound — about £2,760. So having written off your purchase price, you also

falls in love and when Stan Hey saw his filly, Deadly Doris, "I was smitten in an instant". Alas, Deadly Doris has not won — yet. Somewhere out there, Stan Hey, his two sons and Deadly Doris's trainer Nigel Smith are all dreaming dreams because that is what racing is all about. I know because I, too, have dreamed dreams, not just for a year, but for the past eight years. My first horse cost as much as a decent car and in his entire career managed to come third on one occasion and win £179 — all of which went on the jockey's fees and the horse's travelling expenses. One day Stan Hey will get to paradise. He is in love with Deadly Doris and she, a waif from a field in Wales, will surely win — next month, or next year, or maybe in the next century. By then I hope that Mr Hey has stopped keeping an account of his costs, which amounted to £7,260.28 in his first year. Such detail is no doubt necessary to complete the record for his entertaining book, but it just isn't done to keep accounts of a love affair.

AN ARM AND FOUR LEGS  
By Stan Hey  
Yellow Jersey Press, £15  
ISBN 0 224 05237 5



### Critic versus critic

DERWENT MAY

SIR VIDIA'S SHADOW  
By Paul Theroux  
Hamish Hamilton, £17.99  
ISBN 0 241 14046 3



This tale of two writers begins in Uganda in 1966. Paul Theroux is 25, teaching at Makerere University, trying to write — no idea where his life is taking him. Suddenly, amazingly, into the Common Room steps the writer V.S. Naipaul, who will become, for half of Theroux's life, his most important friend. Even now, 30 years later, he can still vividly recall Naipaul's appearance at that first encounter — the hands behind the back, the "little chant and echo in his speech", the martyred smile. V.S., or Vidia, Naipaul — 34 years old and winning fame in England — has come to Uganda as a visiting professor. Theroux has never met anyone "so certain, so intense, so observant, so hungry, so impatient, so intelligent", and becomes Naipaul's guide in Africa. It is not an easy task. Theroux asks him if he can show him some of his poems. Naipaul replies: "I am brutal." Theroux escapes with the terse comment from Naipaul: "Full of libido." But of almost everything else in Africa, Naipaul is totally critical. The rest of the university staff — pretending, as he sees it, that Uganda is a democracy, pretending that their students can write poems — are dismissed as "infics", inferior human beings. When he is asked to judge a university literary prize, he insists that there shall be only one award, and that it shall be called "Third Prize". Theroux, as a young liberal, is dismayed by these reactions. But he comes to see that they all spring from Naipaul's

### Natural wit

LEONARDO'S MOUNTAIN OF CLAMS AND THE DIET OF WORMS  
By Stephen Jay Gould  
Jonathan Cape, £17.99  
ISBN 0 224 05043 5

THE PUNNING title is symptomatic of Gould's reputation as a serendipitous thinker. This is his eighth volume of essays in which he whizzes off in all directions at once as a scientific semiologist. His professional knowledge as a scientist is scholastic; his cultural references as a human polymath are parenthetical; his wit is so-phomoric. Gould is exciting, but over-excitable. As an essayist, he has been compared inaccurately to Montaigne. But he may be the Umberto Eco of natural history.

### Dance artist

NUREYEV: His Life  
By Diane Solway  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20  
ISBN 0 297 81560 1

REBELLIOUS, talented, feral: Nureyev was a perfect match for Ninette de Valois, who hired him for the Royal Ballet after this defection from Russia in 1961. He raised the supporting role of male dancer to superstar status. Until his death from Aids in 1993, Nureyev dominated the dance stage like a force of nature. This authoritative biography digs deep into Nureyev's childhood, escape to the West, adoration for his lover and mentor Erik Bruhn, partnership with Fonteyn and the career that almost literally limped to a courageous, tragic halt.

### Hellish read

THE TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO HELL  
By Michael Paus and Dana Facaros  
Corgi, £4.99  
ISBN 1 86011 910 7

HELL starts inside this odd Bodeker to the infernal Regions: it's the very devil to read. Light black type on red paper is bad enough, but when overlaid with illustrations, you think someone is trying to pep up a dismally jokey guide to the underworld. It relies on Dante and Milton, but oddly omits St. Oran who, exhumed by St. Columba, sat up and stated: "Hell is not as it is reported." Columba promptly reinterred him, exclaiming: "Earth, fill the mouth of Oran that he may gossip no more."

IAIN FINLAYSON

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# BOOKS

## How we all learnt to love the bomb

Remember McCarthy, but don't forget the gulags, urges former double-agent Oleg Gordievsky

**C**old War by Jeremy Isaacs and Taylor Downing is a luxurious volume that resembles a picture book with its photographs, maps, diagrams and finely coloured headings for chapters that are written in clear and concise prose.

The book is a history of the Cold War and begins with the alliance of the three great powers during the Second World War and its breakup at the end of the 1940s, continuing through Berlin, Korea, Cuba, Vietnam and Czechoslovakia, ending with the collapse of the communist system in Europe between 1989 and 1991.

I have serious reservations about its balance and objectivity. Who won the Cold War? The reply is self evident. Not one Western country attempted to convert to a communist system at the same time as all the East European countries (with the exception of Serbia) were attempting to become democracies in the Western manner and some were queuing up for Nato membership. And yet the authors scoff at George Bush, who said the West had won the Cold War.

It seems that the authors have not fully understood the mechanics of the communist system, whose main organiser of the Cold War against the West was the International Department of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. This department carried out its work via the West European Communist parties and those of the American continent, as well as through state institutions: the KGB, the Foreign Ministry, the military, propaganda bodies and so on. Remarkably, the book never once mentions the International Department and the Communist Party is spoken of mainly in the context of Eastern Europe.

Little El Salvador, which was only remotely connected to the Cold War, is referred to seven times by the authors, who hardly touch on Finland, the classic example in Cold

**COLD WAR**  
By Jeremy Isaacs and Taylor Downing

Bantam Press, £25  
ISBN 0 593 04309 X

**THE COLD WAR**  
A Military History

By David Miller  
John Murray, £25  
ISBN 0 7195 5618 X

War history of the Kremlin's cynical manipulation of a democratic country in its own interest. Nothing is said on Moscow's successful exploitation of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Third World majority in the UN.

The book's credibility is undermined by a hostile attitude towards Washington, a hatred of President Reagan and an irrational demonisation of the CIA. The anti-communist campaign in the USA led by Senator McCarthy takes up ten pages, in contrast to the few small paragraphs devoted to the Soviet repressions of that time. Yet the latter kept ten million people in concentration camps and in Siberia as deportees, including political prisoners, elements from the Baltic States and Eastern Europe dubbed as unnecessary by the regime and entire nations, such as the Chechens, the Tartars and Kalmyks.

The Vietnamese war is, predictably, presented in an anti-American vein. In contrast, North Vietnam's seizure of Saigon in contravention of the Paris Accords is seen as a most natural occurrence. The subsequent bloodbath by the North Vietnamese against liberal and religious groups in South Vietnam is not accorded a single word.

On the important period after 1979 when Moscow deployed SS20 rockets, mainly in Europe, the authors document the Western response in detail: "West Germany would get 108 Pershing IIs", "Britain would get 160 cruise missiles", and so on. The large number of mis-



Wire around the Brandenburg Gate as construction of the Berlin Wall begins, 1961: over 10,000 people attempted to cross the Wall before it finally fell in 1989. Nearly 200 were killed

siles would appear to justify the then stormy protests of the pacifists. But how many Soviet SS20s were there in those days and how powerful were they? Against whom should the pacifists have been demonstrating?

Unlike Isaacs and Downing, David Miller, author of *The Cold War: A Military History* does not beat about the

weapons. He analyses both the Warsaw Pact in depth and in a historical perspective. His accounts of the crises which could have led to an escalation into military action — the suppression of the Budapest uprising in 1956, the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968, the imposition of martial law on Poland in 1981 — are particularly interesting. In

the latter case he, like General Jaruzelski, concludes that entry by Soviet, East German and Czechoslovakian troops was inevitable and that the general "actually saved his country from a bloody fate". He explains the consequences of nuclear war in a matter-of-fact style: "Cities such as Birmingham, Paris... could have been laid waste by just

one megaton weapon each; sprawling megapolises such as Greater London or the German Ruhr might have required up to six."

Miller's conclusion that "the outcome of the Cold War certainly appears to have been more propitious for Nato than for the Warsaw Pact", proves he knows his subject. In his 36-year military career he had

first-hand experience of serving under the threat of the Cold War. He has published 25 books, most of them on defence. He believes that nuclear weapons prevented the descent into a war that would have been "extremely bloody for both sides". And he finishes fairly: "Thus, despite its critics, nuclear weapons did have a utility after all."

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## The price of poetry

**ROBERT NYE**  
**ROBERT FROST**  
A Life  
By Jay Parini  
Heinemann, £20  
ISBN 0 434 00166 X



Frost in Vermont, 1921

Robert Frost looked like a farmer, lived on a farm when he was not harding about from college to college giving readings, and sometimes spoke of poems as though they were harvest. Thanks to all this, he became the first American laureate, and then something even more dangerous than a laureate — a walking, talking symbol of the American Thing, like a male Statue of Liberty, or a philosophical Coca-Cola. To many Americans, who had only a nodding acquaintance with his most cracker-barrel lines, he stood for an idealised rural version of themselves. Yet there was always more to him than this, even if he said so himself: "The Muse takes care of you. You live by writing/ Your poems on a farm and call that farming." We owe it to Frost's best poems not to mistake the farmer for the poet. Frost was in fact a terrible farmer — he got his cow used to being milked at noon and midnight so that he could sleep in late in the mornings. Frost was also a rabid egotist, devoted to his own career and savagely jealous of most of his fellow poets. Scared of

the dark, he was also scared of a strain of insanity that ran in his family. Nor was it just his devotion to poetry that made him a monster both as a husband and as a father. When his wife lay dying, he sat outside the room waiting for her to call him in so that he could say goodbye to her. She didn't. When his daughter was little, Frost woke her up once in the middle of the night in order to make her watch him point a

pistol first at himself and then at her mother, saying: "Take your choice. Before morning, one of us will be dead!" It was left to his wife to comfort the child, and see her back safely to bed. These are the key Frost stories, already notorious from Lawrence Thompson's three-volume biography published in the Sixties and Seventies. The first chapters are the most attractive, with their account of the poet's early years of failure in New England before he came to old England and published *A Boy's Will* (1913) and *North of Boston* (1914). I hadn't realised that some of Frost's greatest and most thoroughly American poems, such as *After Apple-Picking*, *Birches* and *Mending Wall*, full of images from rural New Hampshire, were in fact written in a bungalow in Beaconsfield, Kent. Parini is sound on the poems, though he misses some of his subject's irony, underplays his solipsism, and tends to regard all 14-lined poems that employ any sort of rhyme as sonnets. I think Parini is right to see the actual sonnet *Design* (the one about the white spider) as

Frost at his best. The trouble is that he fails to relate that poem's vision of a "design of darkness to appall" to his subject's life. Thompson's biography was odious, but it did touch a black nerve in Frost which Parini's niceness misses.

## Intimate portraits of loss

"I've sung to a thousand people/ and I've written a small new song." In quoting these lines in 1970, Michael Ondaatje was applauding Leonard Cohen's grasp of the tension between fame and poetic integrity. Ondaatje himself was then a little-known poet, with no sense of the success that would follow the publication of his novel *The English Patient*. *Handwriting* is his tenth book of poetry, the first since he became a celebrated name. It is also the first to focus directly on the poet's childhood in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). The prevailing tone is one of reconciliation: Ondaatje has eschewed the shock tactics and violence of his earlier poems, removed the tutelary influ-

ences of Henri Rousseau and Wallace Stevens from the foreground, and turned his technical competence on a subject close to his heart. The result is a set of intimate, gentle poems, transcribing the history, landscape and traditions of Ceylon. Like the Sinhalese alphabet, a specially softened version of Sanskrit that could be written on brittle Ola leaves without tearing them, Ondaatje has carefully refined his childhood memories before committing them to paper. Ondaatje left Ceylon for England at the age of 11, having begun his education in Sinhalese. At school, he learnt to appreciate the strange layering of history: "We began with myths and later included actual

events." Reflecting this experience, his poems glide from the 18th-century drowning of Persian ships to late 20th-century student insurgency, torture and intimidation. They are connected by Ondaatje's interest in literacy: "the formalisation of the vernacular", and

its interruption in times of war and political crisis. *What We Lost* begins a lament for all societies deprived of their "landscapes of daily life" through violence. Precious traditions, things that are passed "parampara, from generation to generation" can be secured only in lyrical language. The poem sequence *The Nine Sentiments* echoes the traditions of Sanskrit and Tamil love poetry. This borrowing is poignant and moving because throughout the volume Ondaatje draws on a personal sense of cultural loss: "The last Sinhala word I lost/ was Vatura/ the word for water." These poems expose private memories and leave the poet aware of his own vulnerability: "the way someone in your life will talk out love and grief/ then leave your company laughing". Crafted with Ondaatje's new found confidence and deepened sincerity, *Handwriting* offers a refreshing gloss on the jaded old witticism — nothing succeeds like success.

**RUTH SCURR**  
HANDWRITING  
Poems  
By Michael Ondaatje  
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ISBN 0 7475 4261 9



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A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices

BRITISH ISLES

A HEALTHY holiday might be just what some people need before the festive ordeal ahead, and Countrywide still has availability on a walking break in the Peak District starting on Monday...

SANTA CLAUS is paying a visit and Christmas dinner will be served in the second week of December for those who cannot wait for the jollies to begin...

ROTHERHITHE has never been a tourist draw, but its youth hostel close to the Thames does make an excellent base for exploring the developing London Docklands...

BOURNEMOUTH is on offer at reduced prices from December 4 to 22 with Goldenrail. Half board at a refurbished Victorian hotel with leisure facilities now costs less than £30 a night...

THE JOYS of Dublin and a ferry duty-free sale can be combined on short breaks to Ireland with Siena Line...

COUNTRY hotels in Ireland with extensive leisure facilities are available for weekend breaks by air from Thomas Cook Holidays...

A TURRETED triangular folly on a hill in south Devon and a modern waterside house at the Port Solent Marina, Hampshire, are among the contrasting properties still available to rent over Christmas...

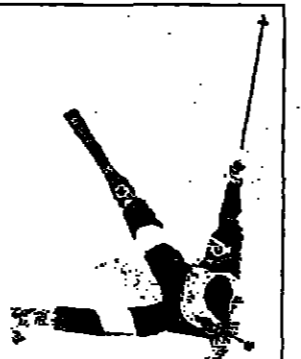
CHRISTMAS afloat will appeal to those who are never steady on their pins during the festive season, and Norfolk Broads Direct has expanded its range of boats for hire over the holiday period...

EUROPE

TOUR operators must think that we are all obsessed with Christmas shopping, because half the packages to Europe in the coming weeks are being promoted as "shopping bonanzas"...

FOR those seeking a traditional resort, a fortnight's self-catering with Airtours in Puerto Rico, Gran Canaria, is available for only £174 from Co-op Travelcare...

SKIERS may fall over in surprise at being offered a saving at Christmas, but Ski Independence is cutting £25 off week-long trips beginning on December 19 in several French resorts...



Ski trips to several French resorts are £25 cheaper

CYPRUS for a fortnight for £99 is a breathtaking offer from Lunn Poly and includes a return flight from Gatwick on December 5 with Thomson, and self-catering accommodation...

PARIS can still seem romantic even in midwinter, and travellers will certainly be warmed by the prices from Magic Cities. Two nights' B&B at a three-star hotel close to the Sacre Coeur and Opera Garnier are now available from £142 including flights from London...

TALLINN, the capital of Estonia, is tipped by some travel experts eventually to rival Prague as the most popular Eastern European city for short breaks because of its intriguing medieval core...

CHRISTMAS cruises are still available from Festival Cruises, with six nights in the western Mediterranean costing from £745. Fly from Stansted to Italy on December 21 to sail from Savona on the Azur for Malta, Tunisia, Sicily and other Italian ports...



VICTORIA FALLS will be the final attraction on a 19-day Christmas camping trip with The Imaginative Traveller. Fly from Heathrow to Cape Town on December 15, explore the Okavango delta in Botswana for three days and spend Christmas Day in Namibia's Etosha National Park...

LONG HAUL

GOA springs into the minds of many potential travellers as midwinter gets bleaker in Britain, and there are plenty of cheap packages to the former hippy (and increasingly middle-class) Indian paradise...

CRUISING through the Caribbean into the Gulf of Mexico for a week for £399, including return flights from Gatwick-Jamaica flights, is the bargain available from Direct Line Holidays...

THE SINAI desert, Mount Moses and the surrounding biblical landscape seems an appropriate venue for a holiday in the coming weeks, and can be visited on regular ten-day tours with Explore Worldwide...

GRENADA and Tobago, two of the Caribbean's prettiest and least-spoilt islands, are available at a £100 saving from Airwaves for departures until December 9 from Gatwick. This offer brings the price of a fortnight's all-inclusive holiday to less than £1,000...

A CORAL island for Christmas with baboons, bushbabies and antelopes for company is on offer from Somak Holidays. A fortnight on Chale, off the Kenyan coast, much of it a nature reserve, costs £1,249 from December 21, including flights and full board in a thatched village...

FLIGHT deals to the United States for the weeks before and after Christmas are on offer - but be quick to catch them. Los Angeles for £199 return is available from Campus for flights from Heathrow before December 9, returning by the end of the year...

NEW YORK for £172 return is on offer from STA Travel for flights between December 1 and 16, returning by the end of the year, while Dallas and Houston are available for £269 from Bon Voyage...

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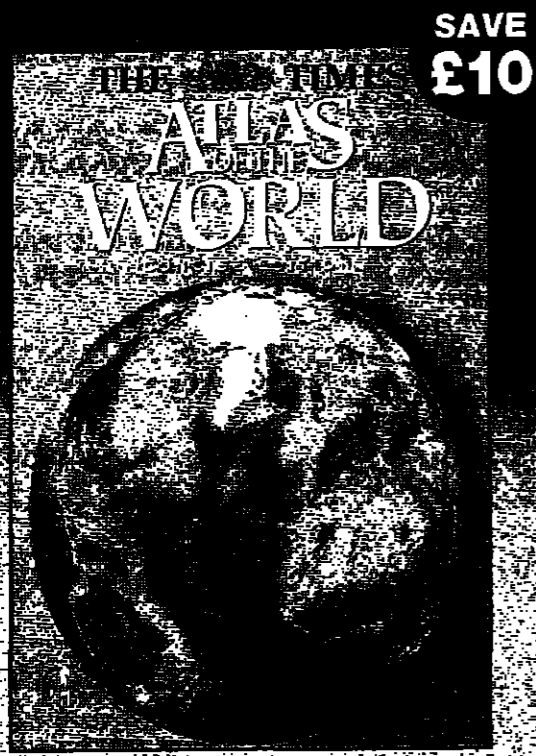
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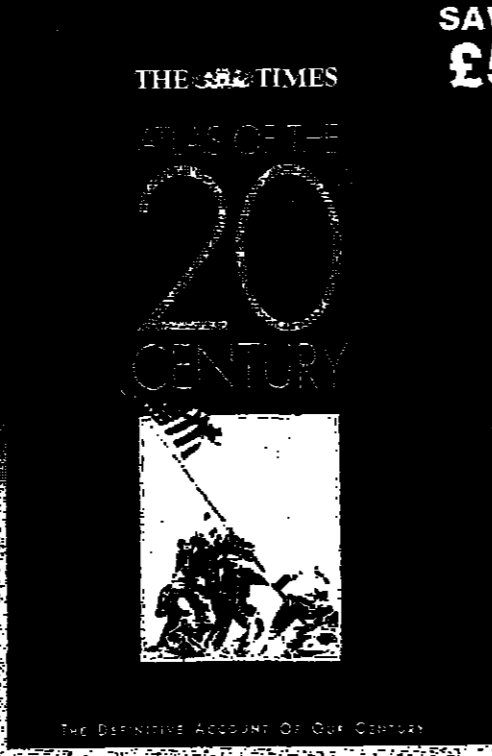
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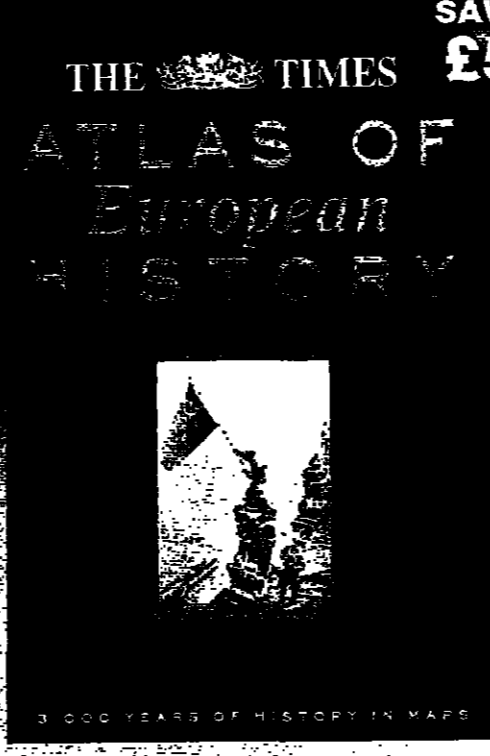
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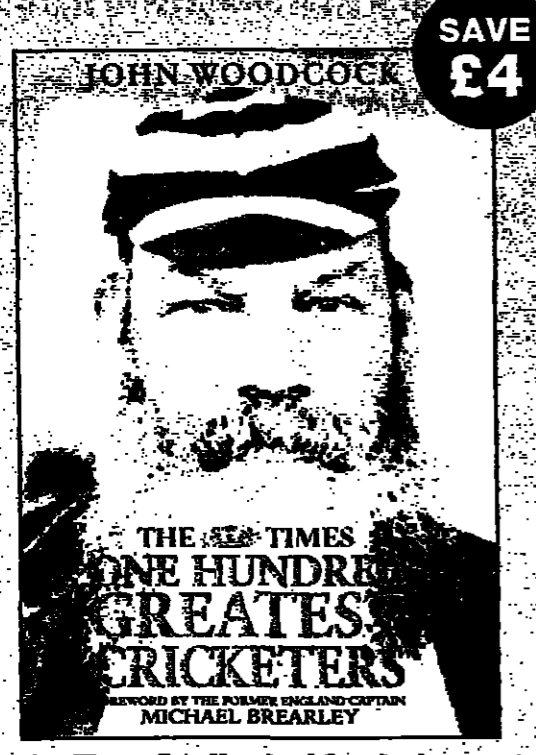
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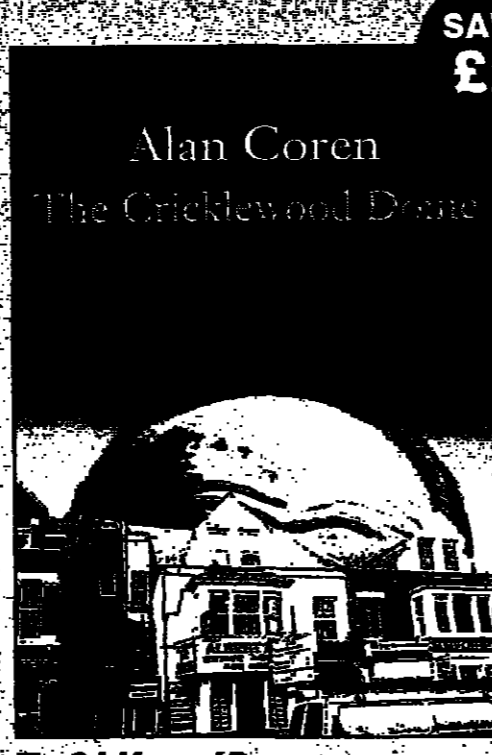
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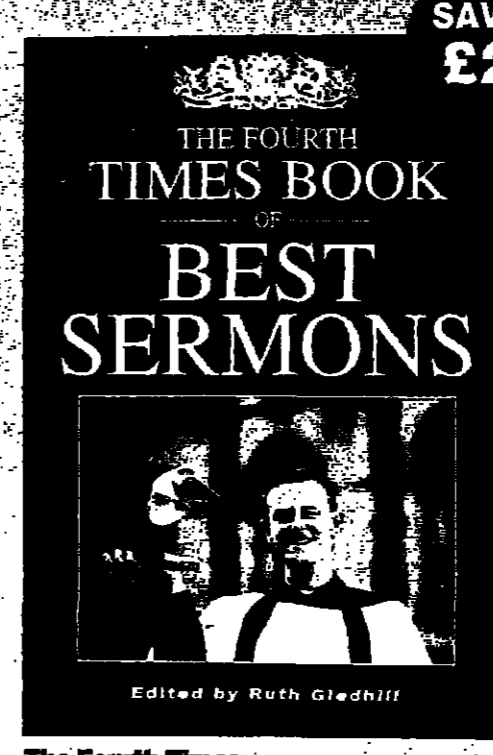
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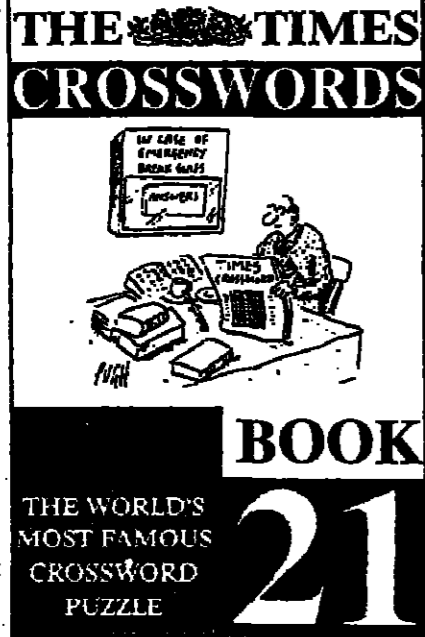
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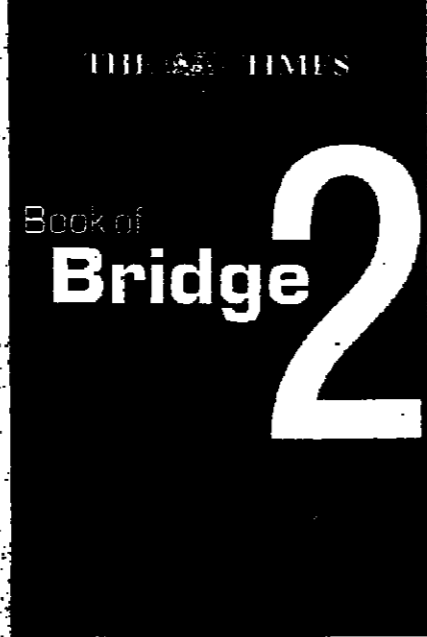


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CRICKET

# Lloyd backs Stewart to recover his form

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

ALEC STEWART had a lot on his mind yesterday, and a long time for consideration. It took the England team nine hours to complete the east-west journey from Brisbane to Perth and if Stewart had been a sensitive soul, he would not have been staying off the boredom by reading the Australian newspapers.

Already, with one inconclusive Test match completed, they are gloating that Stewart's duties are too heavy, that his batting is in turmoil and that, anyway, he has never yet proved himself against the best team in the world. On figures alone and indeed on the evidence of two rapid failures in Brisbane — both alarming misjudgments — they may have a point.

Stewart, according to one newspaper here, "has more jobs than a boarding-school matron" and "is making heavy weather of his assignment". Being one sportsman who does read the papers and refuses to pretend otherwise, Stewart is keenly aware of his own publicity but declines to dignify it with a response. He looked thoughtful yesterday, but far from forlorn.

Scorn has never scarred Stewart, especially the scorn of Australians. He has heard too much of it, grown his thick skin and developed his reflex responses. If he is worried right now, it does not show. Publicly, he will only repeat one of his regular soundbites and say: "You always back yourself."

In this, he has the full endorsement of David Lloyd, the coach, who responded to his captain's lack of runs quite simply. "He'll make them, I

don't worry about that at all," he said. One would expect nothing other than this rank-and-file confidence, but it is not necessarily convincing.

In twenty Test matches against Australia, Stewart has not made a century and averages only 25. On this tour, his first-class scores are 0, 0, 52, 0, 8 and 3. Moreover, in Brisbane, the weakest area of his game, a tendency to start woodenly against spin bowling, was thoroughly exposed.

This represents the first serious examination of his ability to sustain the three key roles that are being asked of him. Combining batting, wicket-keeping and captaincy is no great problem while you are making runs and winning games, but Stewart is now having to confront a dip in form at the very time that his team is struggling to rise above the soft subservience of recent Ashes tours.

The Australians know better than to believe that Stewart's temperament is vulnerable in such a period, for they greatly respect his strength of character, but they have rather less regard for his batting technique, especially in a middle-order position where he can be attacked immediately with spin. There is no prospect of him returning to opening — it does not suit England's balance and it would ask even more of his constitution — so there he must stay.

Much the best news for Stewart, as he looked ahead to the second Test starting here on Saturday, is that the only spin he can possibly face is the part-time off-breakers of Colin Miller, the Tasmanian. The exclusion of Stuart MacGill



Stewart trudges off after his second failure in the first Test match at the Gabba

has not been warmly received here and there is now a possibility that he will not play again in the series, if Shane Warne's recovery continues ahead of schedule.

Warne starts another Sheffield Shield match for Victoria in Melbourne today and will also play in the four-day game against England next week before it is decided if he is ready to be brought back for the third Test in Adelaide.

More immediately, England must address the deficiencies of Brisbane in a number of ways if they are to avoid being blown away on a Perth ground where they have lost heavily on their past two vis-

its. The indications are that they will reinforce their batting by including John Crawley ahead of Robert Croft, and that there may also be a change in the fast-bowling department, with a chance being given either to Dean Headley or Alex Tudor.

Lloyd was impressed by the response of Alan Mullally, who took five wickets in a Test innings for the first time in Brisbane, and identifies stamina as one of his great assets. "He's like Glenn McGrath in that he just wants to keep going, and I see him having a big part here as someone who can bowl into the wind but still take wickets," Lloyd said.

Quite rightly, Lloyd was less complimentary about some of the batting, both from the tailenders in the first innings and certain of the top order in the second. "We made basic errors and we must eradicate them," he said. "We need to sustain performances over five days to win the Ashes."

One man unlikely to be around to see the outcome is Graeme Hick. A week after his hasty arrival on standby, while Michael Atherton struggled with back problems, Hick has been told that he can expect to fly home before the end of the Perth Test, so long as Atherton's condition does not recur.

# West Indies hope for change of fortune

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN JOHANNESBURG

LITTLE has happened to cheer West Indies since they took their first faltering steps on a tour of South Africa that is rich in cultural and historical significance.

First there was the farce played out between two Heathrow hotels less than three weeks ago, which included the dismissal and later reinstatement of Brian Lara, the captain, and Carl Hooper, the vice-captain, who were seen as the protagonists in a players' revolt over demands for more money. President Mandela intervened, while Pat Rouseau, president of the West Indies Cricket Board, rather lamely claimed that the whole sorry affair had been no more than a "misunderstanding".

That was followed by injuries to key players, and an astonishing defeat by Orange Free State earlier this week, which would only have served to extend the impression of foreboding that has enveloped the tourists.

It is, therefore, a chastened West Indies side that will confront South Africa at The Wanderers here today in the opening match of a five-Test series, the first such contest between these two teams on African soil.

Heartening to the touring team will be the news that Courtney Walsh — who is only one short of Malcolm Marshall's West Indies Test record of 376 wickets — and Curtly Ambrose have recovered from injuries (knee and ingrowing toenail) that had threatened to keep them sidelined. Their presence should ensure a bowling depth that was visibly lacking against Free State, who, having been dismissed for 67 in the first innings, successfully chased a target of 438 to win by two wickets.

Nixon McLean offered some optimism by taking seven for 28, a career-best, in the first innings, but Dinanath Ram-

narine, the leg spinner, is being replaced by Ravi Lewis, who is at present on the West Indies A tour of India. Ramnarine's troubled right shoulder has not shown sufficient signs of recovery, so West Indies have no option but to play four fast bowlers.

Stuart Williams is likely to bat at No 6, a position that became vacant when Jimmy Adams severed tendons in a finger while sliding a bread roll on the flight from London. Ridley Jacobs appears certain to earn his first Test appearance after keeping wicket in both first-class tour matches.

The South Africa side is notable for the inclusion of David Terbrugge, 21, a flame-haired fast bowler who set his sights for this season no higher than establishing himself in the Gauteng side. Adam Bacher and Pat Symcox are recalled, although Symcox may give way to Paul Adams.



Walsh: close to record

Rouseau robbed, page 20

# Barnett expresses desire to leave Derbyshire

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DERBYSHIRE'S problems escalated yesterday when Kim Barnett, the former captain, underlined his determination to leave. He insists that Vic Brownell, the chairman, said that he could move elsewhere to play — even though a press statement from the County Ground suggested that his departure would be sanctioned only "to pursue a furthering of his career after his playing days ended".

Barnett, whose 23,854 runs from his twenty seasons is a Derbyshire record, has two years of his contract remaining, but is annoyed at the club's failure to resolve the

captaincy issue. Dominic Cork is threatening to step down unless Harold Rhodes, a committee member, and Andrew Hayhurst, the director of coaching and development, are removed from influence on the side.

Barnett, 38, is also unhappy at "the way the club is being run, particularly towards the players". He has aired these concerns to Brownell and John Smedley, the general manager. He said: "I pointed out that the club was not going anywhere and asked whether they would be will-

ing to release me. The chairman said he would put it to the cricket committee on Monday. He told me after the meeting it would not stand in my way. At no stage were conditions about coaching or anything else mentioned.

"I know that I was told by the chairman I could go if I wanted. Whether the chairman had pressure applied by other members of the committee afterwards I do not know." Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Glamorgan are interested in Barnett, who has pledged to represent Cork at a forum organised by members next Thursday.

## Court of Appeal

### Betting decision not arbitration

O'Callaghan v Coral Racing Ltd

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice May and Sir Christopher Slade

[Judgment November 19] A clause in a gaming agreement under which disagreements could be referred to the editor of *The Sporting Life*, was part and parcel of a void agreement and could not survive independently. It was not an arbitration clause since the hall-mark of arbitration is a procedure to determine the legal rights and obligations of the parties judicially, which was enforceable in law.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Terence Matthew O'Callaghan, from the dismissal by Mr Justice Toulson made on May 14, 1997 of the plaintiff's originating motion for an order that the award made in favour of the defendants, Coral Racing Ltd, on January 31, 1997 by the editor of *The Sporting Life*, Mr Tom Clarke, be dismissed.

Section 18 of the Gaming Act 1845 provides: "... All contracts or agreements, whether by parole or in writing, by way of gaming or wagering, shall be null and void; and no suit shall be brought or maintained in any court of law and equity for recovering any sum of money or valuable thing alleged to be won upon any wager, or which shall have been deposited in the hands of any person to abide the event on which any wager shall have been made."

Mr Robert Englehart, QC and Miss Joanna Pollard for the plaintiff; Mr William Norris, QC and Miss Lucy Moorman for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said Mr O'Callaghan had placed two bets at Coral's shop in Cardiff while the shop was still open but after it had gone through its closing down procedures. One of the betting slips, processed at 5.59pm, one minute before closing time, was for a £50 "correct score" accumulation bet on four football matches, which predicted, correctly as it turned out, the score in all four. Neither betting slip had been photographed, contrary to normal procedure.

Had the bet been valid, he would have garnered £29,200, a win at odds of more than 5,000 to one. Coral's rules reserved the right to declare void any betting slips with whose bona fides they were not satisfied. The rules also provided for disputes to be submitted for arbitration to the editor of *The Sporting Life*, whose decision would be considered final.

count by the panel appointed by editor, which upheld Coral's right to declare the bet void.

The plaintiff had vainly sought to persuade the editor to reconsider the matter on various grounds, including a breach of natural justice in refusing to disclose Coral's evidence to him.

When that request had been refused, the plaintiff had sought an order for remission of the award under section 22(1) of the Arbitration Act 1950 and leave to appeal under section 13(4) of the Arbitration Act 1979. Mr Justice Toulson had refused both requests.

He decided that the arbitration clause was void because it formed an integral part of a wagering contract which was void by reason of section 18 of the Gaming Act 1845. The matter submitted to the editor was no more and no less than the plaintiff's claim to the payment of the bet and would have been bound to fail because of the illegality of the contract. He also decided that the clause in Coral's rules did not qualify as an arbitration contract within the meaning of the Arbitration Act.

His Lordship rejected a submission by Mr Englehart that the agreement to submit disputes to the editor might be severable from the void betting contract in the light of *Harbour Assurance Co (UK) Ltd v Kansa International Insurance Co Ltd* [1993] 1 Lloyd's Rep 455 and *Solomon v Soames* [1950] 1 WLR 111.

The gaming transaction was declared null and void by section 18. It was manifest that the arbitrator, if such he was, would be obliged to hold that the gaming transaction was void. He would also be obliged to acknowledge, under the second limb of section 18, that he was debarred from awarding any sum of money alleged to have been won on the bet.

Consequently, the clause must be treated as an integral part of the terms on which Coral was willing to do business with the plaintiff, and consequently could not be separated from the rules and could not survive independently.

Turning to the issue whether the clause was an arbitration clause, his Lordship said he had held in the arbitration process was that it was a procedure to determine the legal rights and obligations of the parties judicially, which was enforceable in law, thus reflecting in private proceedings the role of a civil court of law.

The clause in Coral's rules, on the other hand, established a procedure which was devoid of any legal consequences whatsoever, and which lacked most of the key characteristics identified by the textbooks. It would be stretching the traditional concept of arbitration beyond breaking point to hold that the clause qualified as such.

LORD JUSTICE MAY agreed. It was perhaps ambiguous nowadays to refer to a betting transaction as illegal. It was not unlawful to place a bet with a bookmaker at a betting shop, but the transaction

was by section 18 null and void. That meant that the transaction was not in law a contract and, if that was not tautologous, that it was not a transaction which could be enforced by proceedings in court.

It was open to the parties to a betting transaction to agree means whereby disputes arising from their transaction might be settled and they might, if they wished, call such a process "arbitration" and call the person to whom they had submitted the dispute an "arbitrator". Their arbitrator might proceed to make and communicate a decision, by which the parties might abide.

But since the transaction was not in law a contract, the decision could not make any determination of rights, obligations or incidents of the transaction which had any effect in law. There were no such rights, obligations or incidents.

That extended not only to an en-

forcement to payment asserted by the person placing the bet, but also to the meaning and effect of the bookmaker's terms of business. The parties' arbitrator could make a domestically interesting statement expressing his view of their meaning and effect, but in law it was no more effective than silence.

That meant, in his Lordship's judgment, that the "arbitration agreement" in the case was not one to which the Arbitration Act could apply. It also meant that the court could not do anything for the parties beyond telling them, what they already knew, that their transaction was not in law a contract. As a court of law, the court could only deal substantively with transactions having a legal effect, which the transaction in the case did not.

Sir Christopher Slade agreed with both judgments. Solicitors: Denton Hall; Nicholson Graham & Jones.

## Law Report November 26 1998

Bourne Inc v Raychem Corporation and Others

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment November 17]

A party ordered to pay costs who wished to challenge the bill could call on the taxing master to direct the party to allow underlying documents to be produced to him but the master could not force the party to do so.

However, if a party did disclose such documents, the payer was bound by an implied undertaking from which he could be released only by the payer or the court, to make no collateral use of them.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the *Chancery Division*, in holding that the first respondent, Raychem Corporation, a company incorporated in the USA, and the second, third and fourth respondents, Clifford Chance, Rowe & Maw and Latham & Watkins, the lawyers Raychem chose to employ in cer-

tain UK taxation proceedings involving the petitioner, Bourne Inc, another American company, were bound not to make any collateral use of any such documents disclosed to them in those proceedings, whether in litigation in England or elsewhere or otherwise.

Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC, for Raychem; Mr Michael Bloch, QC, for the respondents.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that Raychem owned a number of UK patents relating to positive temperature coefficient compositions, devices and applications. Bourne petitioned the Patent Court to revoke five of them.

Prior to a hearing in May 1997 Raychem had acknowledged that one of them must be revoked. By a judgment dated June 12, 1997 (reported sub nom *Raychem Corporation's Patents* [1998] RPC 31) his Lordship had held the other four patents invalid and made an order

for costs in favour of Bourne. On taxation of costs, Bourne had produced certain documents which had now been seen by all four respondents and also by the leader and another counsel engaged by Raychem to contest its defence to proceedings by Bourne in the District Court for the Central District of California.

At the heart, now, of those proceedings was Raychem's belief that, as a result of seeing documents provided by Bourne in the UK taxation, a key witness for Bourne in both the UK and the USA proceedings had lied to both courts.

Procedure on taxation Under Order 62, rule 29 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and *Supreme Court Taxing Office Practice Direction* (No 2 of 1992) (The *Supreme Court Practice* 1995, p116) the payer "must", unless the taxing master otherwise ordered, initially lodge with the court, the payer having no general entitlement to see them, a wide range of papers, namely those required to demonstrate, not only what had been spent on what items in the litigation, but also the complexity of the matter.

But since *Goldman v Hesper* [1988] 1 WLR 1238 a payer wishing to challenge an item could call on the taxing master to direct the payer to allow some or all of the underlying documents to be produced to him; and if so, the master considering it appropriate, the payer would be given three options: (i) to allow production, or (ii) to rely on alternative evidence in support of the claim, or (iii) to jettison it: see *Pamplin v Express Newspapers Ltd* [1985] 1 WLR 669.

Here, Rowe & Maw had requested copies of all vouchers lodged on behalf of Bourne in the taxation. It was reasonable for Bourne, if wanting to incur costs, to disclose them; so disclosure should be treated as under compulsion and subject to an *Altobelli v Scott* [1944] 1 All ER 409 implied undertaking, restraining collateral use of such vouchers.

Should Raychem be released from that undertaking to permit production in the appeal against the June 12 judgment? No: see *Crest Homes plc v Marks* [1987] AC 829.

However, Mr Bloch based his application for release only on allegations that A, a particular expert witness on Bourne's behalf, had knowingly put forward misleading evidence. But that charge was baseless and Mr Bloch appeared to accept that the documents would be merely peripheral to any issues in that appeal.

Privilege Although Raychem sought release of many documents, the argument before his Lordship had revolved entirely around only one, sent by an author identified here as X.

Bourne's case was that it related to work done by X for the UK proceedings. Such work and the reports of it, including the document in issue, were therefore privileged

## Chancery Division

and although Bourne had waived privilege in allowing it to be passed to Raychem, the waiver stopped there.

His Lordship distinguished *Clough v Tameside Health Authority* [1992] 2 All ER 971 and, addressing Mr Bloch's argument that in voluntarily handing over documents in the taxation without express reservation, Bourne's waiver of privilege had been unlimited, observed that that point was addressed and dispatched in *Goldman v Hesper* [1988] 1 WLR 1238, 1245C where Lord Justice Taylor had said: "Voluntary waiver... on a taxation would not in my view prevent the owner of the document from reasserting his privilege in any subsequent context."

Fraud on the court in USA His Lordship dealt with the factual basis for criticisms of Bourne and its principal witness in a confidential annex, and added that he could not accept that, by any reasonable objective standards, any document disclosed to Raychem, during the taxation, clearly established even a prima facie case of fraud.

Once it was realised that there was nothing referred to in any document disclosed in the taxation which was inconsistent with the results relied on by X, the sting went out of the implicit assertions that material was withheld from the English and Californian courts because Raychem and X had something to hide.

Overriding privilege where obligation to disclose abroad exists In *Bank of Crete SA v Skatistas* (No 2) [1992] 1 WLR 919 a bank had wanted to prepare certain audit reports, using material obtained from Mareva (asset-freezing) orders against a defendant accused of defrauding it of \$200 million, being under an obligation, in Greek law, to prepare such reports and supply them to the provisional commissioner of the bank.

Mr Justice Millett saw no reason (at p927a) why the English court "should be astute to prevent a party who has obtained material thereby by the use of... coercive powers from producing such material in a foreign jurisdiction if comparable to do so."

But that passage had to be viewed in its context of the need for international cooperation between courts of different jurisdictions, to deal with multi-national fraud.

Here, unlike that case, the documents in question were privileged; Bourne had obtained them from its own commission; so compelling reasons should exist before the court released any of them for collateral use.

In all the circumstances, his Lordship was not prepared to exercise his discretion to grant Raychem, or the lawyers it chose to employ, the taxation proceedings, leave to make any collateral use of the documents disclosed in such proceedings. Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Clifford Chance.

# Threat is insult for contempt purposes

Manchester City Council v McCann and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Clarke

[Judgment November 16]

A county court judge could fine or commit a person to prison for contempt under section 118 of the County Courts Act 1984 for wilfully insulting a witness on his way to or returning from court, his powers were not limited to offences committed in the face of the court.

A threat was an insult for the purposes of section 118 of the 1984 Act. The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Manchester City Council, against the decision of Judge Holman at Manchester County Court on June 10, 1998 to dismiss its application to commit Richard McCann, the husband of the defendant, Margaret McCann, to prison for contempt under section 118 of the County Courts Act 1984. The application was remitted to the county court.

Section 118 of the County Courts Act 1984 provides: "(1) If any person - (a) wilfully insults the judge of a county court, or any juror or witness, or any officer of the court during his sitting or attendance in court, or in going to or returning from the court... any officer of the court... may, by order of the judge, take the offender into custody and detain him until the rising of the court, and the judge may, if he thinks fit - (i) make an order committing the offender... to prison; or (ii) impose upon the offender... a fine... or may both make such an order and impose such a fine."

Mr Michael Lemmy for the council; Mr Nigel Bird for Mr McCann.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the

court prepared by Lord Justice Henry, said that the defendant and her husband lived on a small estate in Manchester. Some of the children had run wild and committed serious acts of vandalism on the premises of that estate.

The council, as the housing authority, had been granted possession of the family's house on the ground of the children's many acts of nuisance, annoyance, harassment and disturbance of other tenants. At the possession hearing, a neighbour had given evidence of serious acts of vandalism by two of the children. He was given a lift back to his home by a council officer. As he left the car to walk to his house the defendant's husband shouted "I'll fucking have you, you bastard."

The next day the council had appeared before the judge to make an application to commit the husband for contempt under section 118. The judge had noted that section 118 dealt with the court officer taking the offender into custody and detaining him until the rising of the court and had concluded that for him to have jurisdiction under section 118, the contempt had to be "in the face of the court".

Accordingly, the judge had held that he had no jurisdiction to try the contempt, and the sole jurisdiction to try such a contempt lay with the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division under Order 52 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The court was prepared to assume in the husband's favour that wilfully to insult a protected person on his way to or returning from the court was not a contempt in the face of the court, although there was some authority that that concept was, so far as location was concerned, elastic.

But making the assumption that the conduct on the highway jour-

ney was not conduct in the face of the court would not, as the judge assumed, mean that it was not covered by section 118.

The words "in going to or returning from the court" were to be within the instances given by section 118. Those instances made clear that section 118 was not limited to contempts in the face of the court.

The husband had contended that *R v Lefroy* (1873) LR 8 QB 134, *R v Judge of the Brompton County Court* [1933] 2 QB 195 and *Bush v Green* [1958] 1 WLR 1143 showed that section 118 was limited to contempts in the face of the court.

Those authorities when examined were clearly using the phrase "contempt in the face of the court" as a convenient summary of the limits of the section 118 jurisdiction: convenient but not accurate. None of the cases referred directly or indirectly to the words "in going to or returning from the court", nor did they consider whether or not those words fell within or without the concept of "in the face of the court".

The wording of the section made it quite clear that if the offence was committed "in going to or returning from the court" it did not have to be committed in the face of the court for the county court judge or district judge, including assistant and deputy district judges, to have jurisdiction. A further point then arose, whether in section 118 meaning "insults" included "threats". The case for "insults" including "threats" would be unanswerable if section 118 defined what was and was not a contempt.

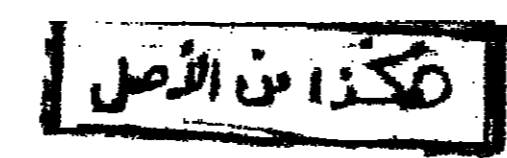
But the answer was somewhat weakened when the question was simply one of whether the county court judge, or district judge, or the Divisional Court had jurisdiction to deal with that particular kind of contempt. It was at least arguable that as

THE TIMES  
RACING:  
New

TAUNTON

Advertisement for Taunton racing, listing names like SOUTHERN AFRICA (from) W J Cronk (captain), S M Paker, P G Green, A H Bacher, J M... and various other names and details.

Advertisement for Sky TV, featuring the text "Skyl than a" and "From the Premiership to GOLF, Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3, dedicated to... Channel packages... your nearest SkyDirect".





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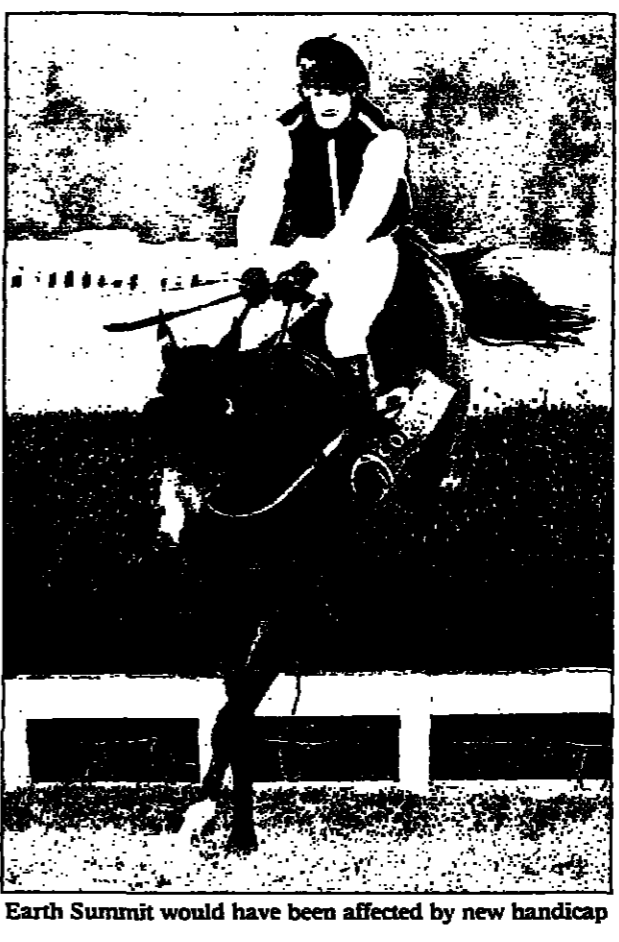
RACING: HANDICAP PROBLEM COULD BE ADDRESSED BY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DISTANCE
New look at National weights

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
A RADICAL change in the way weight is allocated to horses running in the Grand National at Aintree is being considered...

given to National horses fails to take sufficient account of the distance over which they are running.
The weight-distance equation is a significant element of handicapping on the Flat and over the jumps...

Table with 4 columns: HORSE, ACTUAL WEIGHT, POSSIBLE WEIGHT, and a third column with numerical values.

takes over as the steeplechase handicapper from Christopher Mordaunt in January, and will be discussed with trainers and jockeys.
David Oldrey, the committee chairman, said yesterday: "The Grand National is a 4 1/2-mile race and the question is whether the weights are too spread out..."



Earth Summit would have been affected by new handicap

Senor El Betrutti re-routed

SUSAN NOCK has decided to run Senor El Betrutti in the Jacky Upton Handicap Chase at Newbury tomorrow, and the grey will therefore miss the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup the following day...

day. He is in good form. With rain forecast for Friday night, we opted for Friday with Graham Bradley on him. Amanda Perrett continued Bradley would switch to Fine Thyme on Saturday's feature.
Jockey Simon McNeill ended a 22-year career which amassed over 300 winners when retiring from the saddle at Chepstow yesterday.

TAUNTON

THUNDERER
1.25 Mersey Beat. 1.55 Harlestone Lane. 2.25 Country Bree. 2.55 Another Time. 3.25 Treasure Again. 3.55 Tom Tallor.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
1.25 OAK NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (€3,940; 2m 11) (13 runners)
1241 MERSEY BEAT (12) (F) G. Moore 4-2-0 M. Bachelor (5) 111
1013 DANBURY (10) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 R. Dunwoody (12) 103
2138 GALAHAD (17) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 M. R. Fox (7) 89

1.55 MAPLE SELLING HURDLE (3-Y-O; €1,553; 2m 11) (11)
301 BOULLY BEATING (10) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 C. Llewellyn (12) 301
33 ROLL LIVERY (5) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 C. Llewellyn (12) 301

2.25 MENDIP PLYWOOD TIMBER TRADE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY NOVICES CHASE (€4,788; 2m 30) (10)
301 ACCESS FESTIVALS (10) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 J. Frome (12) 301
040 CHANGING THE MIND (8) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 C. Llewellyn (12) 301

3.25 MENDIP PLYWOOD TIMBER TRADE BENEVOLENT SOC. HANDICAP CHASE (€4,668; 3m) (11)
501 1P4 SHEKES (16) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 S. Jones (12) 501
225 SPRING GALE (15) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 J. A. McCarthy (12) 501

3.55 WALNUT HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,948; 2m 31) (10) (10)
420 BROWNES HILL LAD (16) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 M. A. Fitzgerald (10) 420
1281 BANANAPOUR (17) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 P. Kelly (10) 420

CARLISLE

THUNDERER
1.00 Buabhall Mor. 1.35 Scoutia Nostra. 2.05 Winters Keep. 2.35 Ivy House. 3.05 Kilbua King. 3.35 Iln Masraih.

GOING: HEAVY (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS
1.00 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,542; 2m 10) (11 runners)
225 BUABHALL MOR (24) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 C. McCormick (8) 1611
1611 OUEL LAD (10) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 P. Kelly (10) 1611

2.05 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (€2,472; 2m 41) (10) (16)
545 CARBOMAD (17) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 R. Gerrity (12) 545
108 FLIGHTY LEADER (16) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 M. B. Gibson (7) 108

2.35 ASHLEYBANK INVESTMENTS HANDICAP CHASE (€4,856; 3m 20) (5)
414 BLUE HISH (2) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 W. J. Wynn (12) 414
299 MY HOUSE (4) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 J. O'Halloran (12) 299

3.05 HEADLAM NEWCASTLE HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,899; 2m 10) (6)
21P KILBUE KING (11) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 W. J. Wynn (12) 21P
220 HEART OF AVONDALE (11) (F) S. Jones 4-1-1 W. J. Wynn (12) 220

3.35 ASPATHA AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (€2,038; 2m 41) (10) (10)
621 WICKLOW MAY (1) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 S. Jones (12) 621
253 HURST FLYER (16) (D) S. Jones 4-1-1 S. Jones (12) 253

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chepstow
Going: heavy (good to soft in places).
12.50 (2m 11yd ch) 1. Distant Echo (F) (12-2), 11-4; 2. Refractor (5-7); 3. Navee (9-10); 4. The Merry (11-12); 5. The Merry (11-12); 6. The Merry (11-12); 7. The Merry (11-12); 8. The Merry (11-12); 9. The Merry (11-12); 10. The Merry (11-12); 11. The Merry (11-12); 12. The Merry (11-12); 13. The Merry (11-12); 14. The Merry (11-12); 15. The Merry (11-12); 16. The Merry (11-12); 17. The Merry (11-12); 18. The Merry (11-12); 19. The Merry (11-12); 20. The Merry (11-12); 21. The Merry (11-12); 22. The Merry (11-12); 23. The Merry (11-12); 24. The Merry (11-12); 25. The Merry (11-12); 26. The Merry (11-12); 27. The Merry (11-12); 28. The Merry (11-12); 29. The Merry (11-12); 30. The Merry (11-12); 31. The Merry (11-12); 32. The Merry (11-12); 33. The Merry (11-12); 34. The Merry (11-12); 35. The Merry (11-12); 36. The Merry (11-12); 37. The Merry (11-12); 38. The Merry (11-12); 39. The Merry (11-12); 40. The Merry (11-12); 41. The Merry (11-12); 42. The Merry (11-12); 43. 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ATHLETICS

# Britain feels like home from home for Gebrselassie

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

First came the apology. "We are sorry but, unfortunately, the National Indoor Arena was booked, so we had to come here," the man introducing the Haile Gebrselassie press conference said. Even Gebrselassie, the most prolific world record-breaker in track running, cannot compete with 3,500 people all trying to set a world record at once.

Four miles down the road from Gebrselassie's appearance at the Alexander Stadium this week, Sir Simon Rattle and 3,500 children were claiming a place in the Guinness Book of Records, assembling the world's largest orchestra at the NIA. A Gebrselassie was forced to play second fiddle. The night before, at a dinner with Prince Albert, Gebrselassie had been honoured as

male world athlete of the year, in the glittering surroundings of the Monte Carlo Sporting Club. Now it was a cheese sandwich at Perry Barr, in a room where basics triumphed over luxuries.

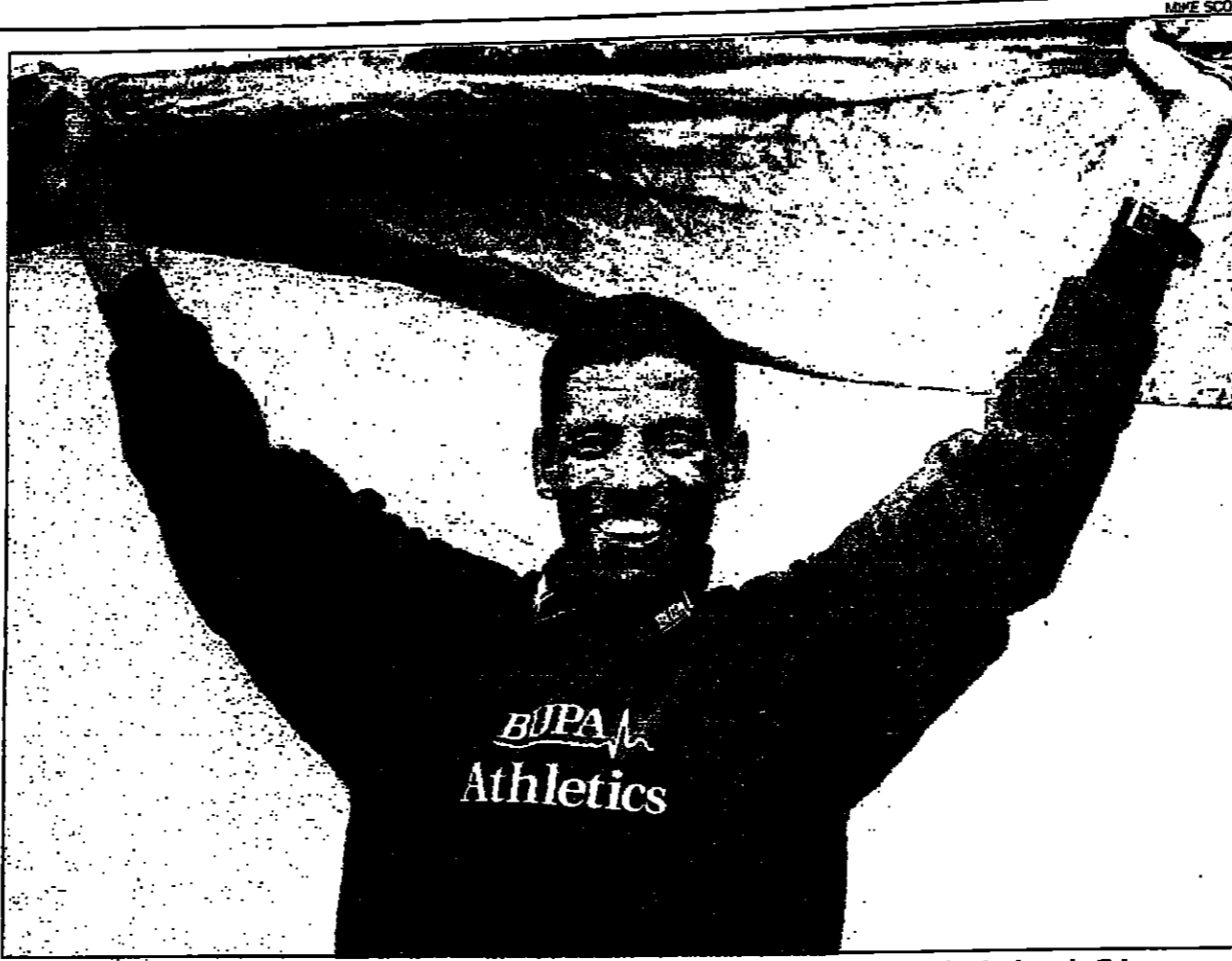
If the sights had changed, the man had not. Gebrselassie was his usual warm, charming, smiling self. Before lunch he went out on the track to pose for photographers while David Moorcroft, who, 16 years ago, set a 5,000 metres world record 21 seconds slower than the one held now by Gebrselassie, watched in admiration.

"The thought of doing 60-point-something seconds for twelve and a half laps is just phenomenal," Moorcroft said, referring to the Ethiopian's present mark of 12min 39.36sec for 5,000 metres. "He

runs it in such a controlled way and has every answer to every question. They cannot outrun him, they cannot out-sprint him, they cannot out-think him." Nor can they hope he will go away.

Gebrselassie has been at the top for six years, but the thought of retirement has not entered his head. And why should it? He may have set 14 world records, won six world titles, been an Olympic champion, and had Disney release a film of his life, but he is still only 25.

Far from winding down, Gebrselassie has begun to plan beyond 2000, when he will seek to emulate his boyhood hero, Miruts Yifter, by achieving the 5,000 and 10,000 metres Olympic double in Sydney. Until this week he had spoken vaguely in terms of the



Gebrselassie will be hoping to provoke more waving of the Ethiopian national flag in Birmingham in February

marathon. In Birmingham he put a place and date on it. "My first marathon will be in Rotterdam in 2001," he said. In fact it will be his second, but he ran his first, in 2hr 52min,

at the age of 16. The aficionados of the sport cannot wait to see what he can do in the marathon, given his mad-axeman approach to breaking 5,000 and 10,000 metres world

records, hacking them down, lumps at a time. Gebrselassie's next world-record attempt will be in the NIA, at the Bupa indoor grand prix, on February 14. He will

go for the 5,000 metres, tackling the longest distance in indoor athletics because, he said, it was an event that needed enthusiastic crowd support to urge him on and Birmingham

is the place for that. "When I run long distance, I need a crowd," Gebrselassie said. "I have seen many crowds in other countries, but this is a fantastic one. I have never seen a crowd like this before." This is not promotional speak as part of the deal with the people who are paying him to appear. Nowhere on the athletics circuit provides an Ethiopian welcome like Britain.

When Gebrselassie broke the 13-year-old 2,000 metres world indoor record in Birmingham last year, he was overwhelmed. He had not realised that the Haile Gebrselassie Supporters' Club of Great Britain was quite the movement it was. Some 800 Ethiopians, mainly from London, travelled to support him, and the delirium was such that, when he set the record, in the ensuing track invasion a man broke a leg leaping over a barrier with a huge drop.

Because of the support he enjoys in Britain, Gebrselassie hopes that London, not Paris, wins the bid to host the 2003 world championships. If he had one complaint about Birmingham last season, it was that he could not hear the music he likes to accompany him on world-record attempts. The crowd drowned out the sound. They had better turn up the volume in February. Either that or find out if Sir Simon Rattle is free that day.



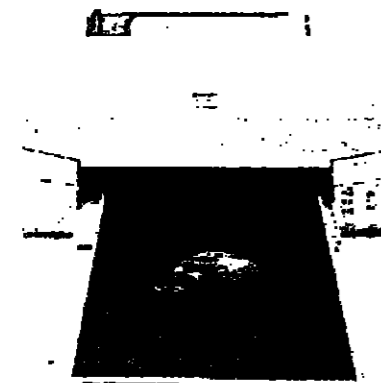
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responsible for the microscopic droplets but it positions them more precisely than any other inkjet. A fact which bugs our competitors no end. It's a lot to think about, but at about £219 with free software, free paper and free vouchers worth up to £85, can you afford not to?

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### FOR THE RECORD

<b>BOWLS</b>	
POTTERS LEISURE CENTRE, Norfolk: United Kingdom indoor singles championships: First round: D J Bryant (Eng) bt A Sme ( Scot) 3-7, 7-3, 7-3. J Henry (Wg) bt A E Thomson (Eng) 1-1, 7-5. Quarter-finals: M King (Eng) bt D Goutay ( Scot) 7-5, 7-2. D S Corlett (Wg) bt C Berham (Eng) 7-6, 7-0.	
<b>FIGURE SKATING</b>	
ZAGREB, Croatia: World junior championships: Women: Qualifying group A: 1. D Tomackova ( Rus) 4. Sackel ( Can); 2. V Volchikova ( Rus); 3. J Sabosyev ( Hun) 12. 4. S Meyer ( Swed) 15. 5. C Shira ( Japn) 20. 6. S King ( US) 24. Qualifying group B: 1. S Hughes ( US) 4. 2. S Woytala ( Pol) 8. 3. I Nakatani ( Rus) 12. 4. G Marachenko ( Ukr) 18. 5. E Keturam ( Fin) 20. 6. A Lunsdorn ( Sw) 24.	
<b>FOOTBALL</b>	
Under-21 representative match	
ITALIAN LGE (0) 1 FOOTBALL LGE (0) 1	
Espoo 00 (w) Even 03	
DUTCH CUP: Second round: Utrecht 2 NEC Nijmegen 2 (agg. 2-2 after 90min, Utrecht win 5-4 on pens)	
Tuesday's late results	
UEFA CUP: Third round, first leg: Celta Vigo 3 Liverpool 1; Rangers 1 Parma 1; AS Roma 1 FC Zurich 4; Bologna 4 Real Betis 1; AS Monaco 2 Marseille 2; Grasshopper Zurich 3 Borussia 3; Real Sociedad 2 Atletico Madrid 1; Lyons 1 Club Brugge 0.	
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Stockport 0 Bolton 1.	
FA CUP: First round replays: Exeter 4 Tamworth 1; Kidderminster 0 Plymouth 0 (match abandoned at half-time, log); Leigh Rm 0 Fulham 2; Rochdale 2 Scarborough 0; Rotherham 3 Enfield 1; Slough 1 Macclesfield 1 (agg. Macclesfield win 3-0 on pens); West Auckland 11 Hibernian 1 (agg. Hibernian win 5-3 on pens); York 2 Enfield 1. Postponed: Notts County v Harlow.	
SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Hibernian 4 St Mirren 1.	
FA UMBRO TROPHY: Second round replays: Berkhamstead 0 Weston-super-Mare 2; Surstock 1 Atherton 1; Carnaby Island 5 Evesham 0; Chesham 4 Yeading 0; Folkestone Invicta 3 Hayes 2; Gillingham 3 Bishop Auckland 1; Harrow 2 Aylesbury 3; Reading 2 Racing Club Warwick 0; Shepshed D 2 Grimsby 2; Alfreton 1; Telford 2 Belper 1; Workop 0 Boston 4; Worthing 4 Romford 3.	
FA UMBRO TROPHY THIRD-ROUND DRAW: Radcliffe Borough v Northwich Victoria; Colwyn Bay v Hednesford Town; Grimsby or Shepshed Dynamo v Enfield; Alfreton or Surstock v Barnet; Atherton, Accrington Stanley or Ashton Ltd. v Stalybridge Celtic; Huddersfield Utd. v Kidderminster Harriers; Lincoln Utd v Grays Rovers; Ayr United v Whitby Town; Frickley Athletic; Droylsden v Belper or Telford Utd.; Chorley v Bishop Auckland or Quaxley; Leigh Rm v Atherton Ltd or Southport; Runcorn v Muncaster; Brackley Town Utd. v Grays Rovers; Bolton Utd or Workop Town; Ayr United v Radcliffe Borough; Barnet v York; Hednesford or Histon Town v Enfield; Telford or Worthing v Harlow or Rothwell; Huddersfield v St Albans City; Weston-super-Mare or Berkhamstead Town v FC Warrington; Rotherham Town, Stevenage Borough v Dover Athletic; Forest Green Rovers v Weymouth; Weymouth v Sudley Utd.; Kingsnorth v Kilsyth Town; Crawley Town or Setonburne Utd v Yeading of Chesham; Dulwich Harriers v Hibernian; Chesham Town v Evesham Utd or Carnaby Island; Aldershot v Maidenhead Ltd. Slough Town v Rushmore and Diamonds; Aylesbury or Harrow Borough v Newport (WV); Dagham and Radcliffe v Ramsgate or Dartford; Havant and Waterlooville v Fisher Athletic; Worcester City, Woking v Hayes or Fokestone Invicta. Ties to be played on Saturday January 18.	
UMBRO LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: Second round replay: Mans 1 Chorley 2. Unifille first division Cup: Second round: Leyton Town 3 Congleton 1; Telford 0 Droylsden 2.	
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: League Cup: First round, second leg: Bath 4 Middlesbrough 3 (Bath win 7-5 on agg.). Hastings 1 Ashford 2 (4-4 on agg. Hastings win on away goals).	
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Heybridge 0 Dulwich 3. Second division: Northon Town 2 Thame 5; Merton 1 Wotton 3. Vanished Trophy: Second round: Stockport 1 Chesham 0. Puma Cup: Second round: Oxford City 2 Molesey 1.	
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE CUP: First round: Ware 1 Dagenham and Redbridge 2. Second round: Chertsey 4 Aylesbury Town 4; Leamington 4 Leyton Parson 4.	
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Leyton Orient 3 Colchester 1; Manchester City 6 Carlisle 0; Mansfield 1 Preston 2; Swansea 0 Cambridge United 1.	
FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North West Conference: Blackpool 3 Stockport 0.	
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth 1 Arsenal 2; Southampton 2 Charlton Athletic 2.	
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Forest 2 Salford 0; Leeds 5 Manchester United 1. First division: Coventry 2 Gillingham 1. League Cup: Group two: Halifax 1; Barnley 2.	
NATIONWIDE GOLD CUP: Quarter-finals: Chorleyville 2 Glendon 3; Newry 1 Clontarf 3; Portadown 1 Ballymena 0; Coleraine 1 Linfield 2 (net. 1-1 after 90min).	
FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Sligo 2 Shelmalier 0.	
SCREENFLEX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Stockwell 6 Keynsham 0; Cane 0 Bickington 7; Moleham 0 Brentport 2. Odd Down 1; Tipton 4.	
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Huddersfield 3 Woburn Garden 1; London Colney 3 Buckingham Athletic 1.	
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill 5 Wisborough 0.	
WELSH CUP: Third round replays: Newtown 0 Connah's Quay 1; Port Talbot 1 Porth Tynewydd 0.	
WINSTON LEAD KENT LEAGUE: Premier division: Turbigo Wells 0 Ramsgate 0.	
INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Stratford 10 Wodnesley 0.	
COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayrton 3; Long Sports 0; Goddard and Gullifer 3; Harty Wilney 1; Marham 3; Fozzard 2.	
JEWELL EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: By 2; Hictor 2; Corfeaton 3; Sudbury Town 1; Walton 0.	

THE TIMES

# Dalla to l Engla

WORD-WATCHING

BRITISH: Trouble chance: 22pts £1,500, 21 £1,300, 20 £230. Four draws: £170. Five averages: £22. Eight homes: £170. ZETTERS: Trouble chance: 22pts £16,800, 21 £51,300, 20 £23,000, 19 £20,400. Four averages: £10,600. Eight homes: £350.00. Four draws: £170.00. Easy (paid on five correct): £230. All-draws: £170.00. LITTLEWOODS: Trouble chance: 22pts £27,996.30, 21 £714.15, 20 £51.00, 19 £25.00. Half-time result: 21 £273.00. Four draws: £24.70. Nine homes: £3,008.00. Five averages: £478.15.

WESTONES: Trouble chance: 22pts £48,993.35, 21 £266.85, 20 £38.30.

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ERNET FORUM

RUGBY UNION

Dallaglio back to bolster England spirits

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO will return to the England ranks on Saturday, hoping to breathe new life into the tired legs that trudged away from Huddersfield four days ago...

TEAM

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath), T Underwood (Newcastle), W J H Greenwood (Leicester)...

him out at this level as a starting second row. Woodward said, "It's an exciting possibility. You never know how players will handle it until you see them at top level and I don't want to be trying these things out before the World Cup..."



Rodber: first game at lock



Stooping to conquer: Dallaglio, left, and De Gianville prepare for the match against Australia at Roehampton yesterday

Cambridge handed lesson by old rivals

Cambridge University... 42 M. R. Steele-Bodger's XV. 62

By Mark Baldwin

WITH THE Varsity match just a fortnight away, the Light Blues are in need of concentrating some minds. Beaten soundly by Mickie Steele-Bodger's XV at Grange Road...

Townsend given attacking role

By Alasdair Reid

THE clubhouse of Livingston Rugby Club in West Lothian provided an unfamiliar backdrop for the announcement yesterday of the Scotland team to face Portugal...

Revised Ireland embrace Wood

By Mark Souster and Karl Johnston

HAVING settled his differences with the Irish Rugby Football Union, Keith Wood was yesterday named in the Ireland team to play South Africa...

TEAMS

IRELAND: C O'Shea (London Irish), J Blaney (London Irish), J Bell (Dunfermline)...

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The final of Crockford's Cup is an eight-team round-robin affair. This was the most spectacular hand from this year's final weekend:

Hand analysis table with Dealer West, N-S game, and IMPs columns.

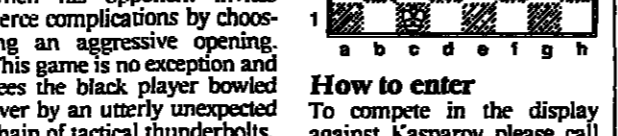
Contract: Six Spades doubled, by South. Lead: 7

At many tables West opened One Club and South wound up in Six Spades. Some Easts produced a Lightner double, asking for an unusual lead which they hoped would be a club...

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Youthful challenge To launch The Times Kasparov Chess Challenge I will be devoting this week to classic games by the champion...



How to enter To compete in the display against Kasparov please call 0640 678884 from the UK...

White: Garry Kasparov Black: Vladimir Kramnik Novgorod 1994 Sicilian Defence

SQUASH Guildford stars of TV pilot

By Colin McQuillan

THE burgeoning National League has attracted its first television interest beyond mere recording of their competitive action. NTL-Cable TV, a company developing American-style local cable television services...

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard NOMISMA a. Reputation b. A gold coin c. A law

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Spielmann - Nimzowitsch, San Sebastian 1911. Tactics do not always lead to an immediate kill...

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FOOTBALL

# Liverpool succumb to superior force

By ALYSON RUDD

THE Celta Vigo coach called it a "spectacular game", but really Liverpool made a spectacle of themselves. Trailing 3-1 to the liveliest side in Spanish football does not rule out progress in the Uefa Cup, but while a 2-0 victory at Anfield in a fortnight would clinch it for Liverpool, it is difficult to see Vigo falling to score.

Yet at half-time in the third round, first-leg tie on Tuesday night, there was real hope. Michael Owen had been given two clear chances to put Liverpool ahead and he had nearly taken one of them. A classic European performance beckoned. Liverpool had taken the lead against the run of play, but that is what the away leg is all about — snatching an away goal and piling the pressure on the home team.

Unfortunately, the words of Gerard Houllier came back to haunt him. Beforehand, he had stressed the importance of protecting a 1-0 lead. Against Leeds United in the FA Carling Premiership, Liverpool went 1-0 up but conceded three goals in the last 12 minutes. "With 12 minutes to play — well, I'm not an Italian, but you keep the result," Houllier said. Of course, the Italian way would make for a dull Premiership, but in European competition you cannot beat it.

So the first part of Houllier's plan had gone smoothly. He had stressed that Liverpool had to score the away goal, not least because they were more than capable of it. Surely, the second part of the plan was to protect that lead. Curiously, Liverpool neither attacked for another goal, nor did they establish a rearguard action.

If anything, the atmosphere was one of confusion, of a desire to see the game end as quickly as possible. There was no doubting Vigo's reaction. They must have simmered at half-time, because they hung themselves at the visitors in the manner of ravenous cats in a cellar of mice.

Alexander Mostovoi, the Russian, was reminiscent of Peter Beardsley at his best playing for Liverpool, was the chief tormentor. Mostovoi demands a lot of his teammates. He relentlessly pushes the ball into the area expecting a neat return pass or an incisive cross. He is the main reason that Vigo, ten days ago, could tear apart Real Madrid, the champions of Europe, and Aston Villa in the previous round of the Uefa Cup.

Mostovoi equalised for Vigo. Six minutes later, Karpin gave them the lead, capitalising on a mistimed clearance by Heggem. Still, 2-1 would give Vigo a bigger headache than it would Liverpool and Houllier's team clung on until, in injury time, a comical series of mistakes by the back four led to Vigo's third, scored by Gudeli.

Houllier acknowledged the "schoolboy errors" in his defence, which may be strengthened by the arrival of Jean-Michel Ferri, 29, a France international with five international caps, from Istanbulspor, the Turkish club, this week, but he also blamed the physical demands of the 4-2 defeat of Villa on Saturday. This will not wash. Liverpool were not tired, they were simply outclassed. Two of the silliest errors were committed by Riedel and Kvame, neither of whom started the Villa game.

Locally, the build-up to the match had been one in which Liverpool were feted for their European credentials. This was, after all, their 178th game in Europe, compared to Vigo's rather modest seventh. Briefly, Vigo must have thought all of that experience would count against them, but basically, they possessed more talent throughout their ranks.



Branch, who had an impressive game in attack for the Nationwide League side, is tackled by Zauri yesterday

## Stylish Evers opens account

Serie B  
Nationwide League

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON  
IN VERONA, ITALY

IN A near-deserted Liberati stadium yesterday, with the snow-capped Mount Terminillo shimmering in the distance, the latest crop of English youngsters took their first tentative steps onto the international stage. Dressed up as the Nationwide League representative side, but to all intents and purposes an England Under-21 B XI, they performed creditably in holding their Italian league Serie B counterparts to a draw.

It was an especially pleasing experience for Sean Evers, the Luton Town midfielder player, who has played an important role in the second-division club's run to the Worthington Cup quarter-finals. Evers, 21, scored the goal that maintained the league team's unbeaten sequence in the annual fixture since 1992 and vindicated his decision to turn down the chance to play for Ireland.

"I was chosen for the Republic's under-21 squad last season, but although it was very much an honour, I was born in England and I'm English through and through," Evers said. After a dull first half enlivened only by the penetrative dashes of the two Michaels, Bridges and Branch, Evers struck in the 65th minute.

Bridges dispossessed Cirilo, cut in from the byline and crossed for Evers, after Branch's clever dummy, to shoot low past Coppola. It was no more than the Nationwide League side deserved after they had upped the tempo and displayed plenty of passion under resumption.

Peter Taylor, the England Under-21 coach and manager of the Nationwide side, will have been impressed. He admitted beforehand that good performances could see the youngsters fast-track their way into his national considerations and his notebook will have been full.

O'Brien, the Bradford City central defender, gave a composed display while Branch and Bridges worked tirelessly up front. Marshall, the Norwich City wing back, also shone on his many forays going forward. Their prospects look bright.

Wright, the Ipswich Town goalkeeper, who was called into the England senior squad for the match against the Czech Republic last week, was made captain and again confirmed his immense promise. His save from Margiotta early in the second half was spectacular.

The English youngsters also kept their heads when the Italians were losing theirs in the closing stages. Brito Arco, the erratic Spanish referee, booked four Serie B players and sent off Bellavista, for his second bookable offence, in the 88th minute.

Arco also denied the Nationwide League victory when he awarded a highly debatable penalty ten minutes from the end. Marshall appeared to have made a perfectly legitimate tackle on Ferraresse, but Arco pointed to the spot and Esposito sent Wright the wrong way.

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# Minnows are put firmly in their place

By RICHARD HOBSON

WITH seven non-league sides already certain of their places in the FA Cup second round, evidence appeared to be accumulating of a narrowing gap between the lower levels of the professional game and the leading part-time clubs. On Tuesday night, the Nationwide League seized the opportunity to reassert supremacy.

In all four completed first-round replays pitting league against non-league, the results went as expected, although Yeovil Town, from the Football Conference, secured their passage by beating West Auckland Town, of the Arnott Insurance Northern League, 5-3 on penalties.

Kidderminster Harriers and Hendon live to fight another day. Their ties against Plymouth Argyle and Notts County respectively were hit by fog and have been rearranged for next Tuesday.

Despite losing 3-1 away to Rotherham United, Emley, who put up such a hearty fight against West Ham United in the third round last season, created enough chances to have progressed. The scoreline stood at 1-1 with eight minutes remaining, but in the final stages they conceded goals to Paul Hurst and Darren Garner and had Mark Wilson and Simon Jones sent off.

Emfield, too, stretched their supposed superiors before going out 2-1 to York City, who now face Wrexham. Even after the dismissal of John Richardson in the 51st minute, the Ryman League side spent most of the second half on the attack and saw Steve Terry

head against the bar late on. Exeter City suffered no such palpitations in brushing aside Tamworth 4-1 to earn a home game against Bristol Rovers.

Leigh Railway Mechanics Institute at least enjoyed their 180 minutes of fame against Fulham. The heroics of David Felgate, the goalkeeper, had thwarted the London club at Craven Cottage, but not even the vocal encouragement of more than 7,000 supporters at Milton Park could conspire to deny Fulham for a second time. Paul Peschisolidi scored both goals in the 2-0 win that sets up a home tie against Hartlepool United. Aggregate receipts in the region of £200,000 represent considerable solace for Leigh.

As one-time standard-bearers of the non-league clubs, Macclesfield Town are all too aware of the pitfalls at this stage of the competition. They needed all of their experience finally to overcome Slough Town 9-8 on penalties after Eletobore Sodje, who plays in a bandana for good luck, was sent off two minutes into extra time. Stuart Whittaker could have saved Macclesfield a lot of bother had he converted a penalty in the 58th minute.

In the only replay between Nationwide League clubs, Rochdale beat Scarborough 2-0 and entertain Rotherham United in the second round.



REVISED DRAW

SECOND ROUND: Preston North End v Walsley; Darlington v Manchester City; Southport v Leyton Orient; Swanswick City v Slacks City; Fulham v Harrogate; Lincoln City v Stevenage Borough; Luton Town v Hull City; Torquay United v Bournemouth; Wycombe Wanderers v Plymouth Argyle; Kidderminster Harriers v Notts County; Exeter City v Bristol Rovers; Rochdale v Rotherham United; Mansfield Town v Southport.

□ Ties to be played on December 4th, 5th and 8th

## Police visit FA after match-fixing claim

THE Football Association last night confirmed that police had visited Lancaster Gate to investigate new allegations of match-fixing involving Premier League clubs. The FA insisted, however, that the matter had gone no further than preliminary inquiries (Matt Dickinson writes).

Fraud Squad officers from Scotland Yard had a meeting with FA officials last week to probe claims that a Malaysian betting syndicate tried to fix the game between Arsenal and Southampton last month, which ended in a 1-1 draw. The inquiry was launched after detectives received an anonymous letter from Malaysia alleging that large sums of money were paid to ensure that Arsenal did not win 2-0.

A statement from the FA yesterday said: "The FA is unaware of any evidence whatsoever to support such allegations. It has no details of a formal investigation by the police. We have no reason to take the matter further."

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## Kidd may tempt Blackburn

BY STEPHEN WOOD

BLACKBURN Rovers are close to finalising a shortlist for the manager's position at Ewood Park, which includes Brian Kidd, the Manchester United assistant manager. Blackburn are seeking a successor to Roy Hodgson, who was dismissed after the defeat by Southampton last weekend, and have received more than 20 serious applications.

Kidd has always preferred to remain in the shadow of Alex Ferguson, but he may consider a manager's role now that he is approaching 50. Although respected as a coach, Kidd has no experience of top-level management.

John Williams, the Blackburn chief executive, said: "I would not be professional for us to comment on speculation, but the main point at the moment is that we do not need to rush. We must make sure we make the right appointment."

Roy Evans, the former Liverpool manager, and Colin Hendry, the former Blackburn player now with Rangers, are also being linked with the job. Tony Parkes, the caretaker manager, will be in charge of Blackburn against Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

Barnsley, of the Nationwide League first division, yesterday signed Craig Hignett from Aberdeen for £800,000. Hignett, the former Middlesbrough midfielder player, has not settled in Scotland because of family problems.

He will be reunited with John Hendrie, the player-manager at Oakwell. The pair were team-mates at Middlesbrough and Hignett said: "I don't want any favours from him — if I'm not pulling my weight, I will expect to be dropped."

Finance for the deal will be partly provided by the £450,000 Barnsley hope to receive from the sale of Jan Aage Fjortoft to Eintracht Frankfurt, the Bundesliga club. Fjortoft, the Norway striker, has yet to finalise personal terms.

Similar problems have held up the swap deal involving Darren Barnard and Carlton Palmer, of Southampton. Barnard is stalling on the move to the FA Carling Premiership club, and Hendrie has told the Wales winger that if he wants to return to Oakwell, he would welcome him back.

Hendrie is also attempting to persuade Ashley Ward, Barnsley's £3 million-rated striker, to stay. Leicester City are considering another approach.

## Tottenham stand by tickets policy

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR yesterday defended their decision not to take up their full allocation of tickets for visiting supporters at the forthcoming match against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The club was criticised this week by supporters because they had taken only half of the allocation available for the match on December 19. Instead, the club will charge supporters to watch the game on giant screens at White Hart Lane.

A Tottenham spokesman said: "When you are playing away, you are entitled to ten per cent of the tickets. You get five per cent on sale or return but the other five per cent you must pay for up front. However, last year, we sold only 1,600 tickets for this match, so we did not want to get stuck with tickets that we had to pay for."

The ticket issue was raised at the annual meeting of the club yesterday and is set to be highlighted by Watchdog, the television consumer programme.

On a brighter note, George Graham, the new Spurs manager, previously in charge of Arsenal, their North London

rivals, was given the seal of approval by the 400 supporters at the meeting. George received a very warm welcome and it shows the fans have really taken to him," the spokesman said.

Graham reiterated his intention to build the Spurs team around Sol Campbell and Darren Anderton, the club's England international. He also denied making a bid for Frank Lampard, the West Ham midfielder player, although he admitted to making several inquiries for other players, without success.

Paul Warhurst has joined Bolton Wanderers from Crystal Palace on a month's loan. Warhurst, 29, formerly of Blackburn Rovers and Sheffield Wednesday, wishes to rejoin his family, who have already returned north after falling to settle in London. He has made 24 appearances for Palace, scoring three goals.

Wanderley Luxemburgo, the Brazil coach, has been suspended for 60 days by the country's disciplinary tribunal of sport after he burst into a referee's changing room and verbally abused him.

## FA loses appeal over racism fine

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Football Association has vowed to work even harder to eradicate racism from the game after failing in its appeal against a £28,000 fine imposed by Uefa for racial chanting by England supporters.

Uefa's appeals panel in Geneva yesterday upheld the earlier decision, made after allegations that England supporters chanted abuse at Henrik Larsson, the Celtic striker, during Sweden's 2-1 European championship qualifying victory in Stockholm on September 5.

Nick Coward, a lawyer for the FA, said it had denied that there was racist chanting but accepted the decision of Uefa. "While we are disappointed, as we still believe that everything is done within English football to eradicate racism from the game, this does nothing more than strengthen our resolve," Coward said.

Uefa said in a statement: "The appeal was rejected following evidence presented by the referee, Pierluigi Collina, and the Uefa delegate at the match, Matthieu Sprengers, stressing that on at least eight occasions during the game, English fans had directed racist chants at the Swedish player, Henrik Larsson."

The appeals panel also decided to uphold another decision by Uefa's control and disciplinary body to ban Wisla Krakow, the Polish club, from European competition for one year. The ban was imposed after an incident during a Uefa Cup tie with Parma last month, when Dino Baggio, the Italian club's midfielder, was injured by a knife thrown by a spectator. Baggio later required five stitches in a head wound.

The appeals panel agreed that Wisla was responsible not only for the act of the spectator, but also for the actions of Ryszard Czerwiec, a Krakow player, who threw the knife back into the crowd to try to conceal the evidence.

Reinhard Rauball, the Polish club's lawyer, said the rejection of the appeal was "a sporting and a financial disaster" for the club. He pointed out that Krakow are ten points clear at the top of the Polish league and expected to qualify for European competition next year.

English fans had directed racist chants at the Swedish player, Henrik Larsson.

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CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 1998

TENNIS: RUSEC in V Agas

BANKS der changes a

SPORTS POLITY

Bank call for unity

TENNIS: BRITISH RESERVE IN LINE FOR FASCINATING CLASH WITH HENMAN AS INJURIES TAKE THEIR TOLL AT ATP TOUR FINALS

# Rusedski waits in wings as Agassi retires

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN HANOVER

OPPORTUNITY may knock loudly for Greg Rusedski after a day more akin to a game of doctors and nurses than the self-proclaimed world champion of tennis. Rusedski, the first reserve at the ATP Tour finals spent yesterday champing at the bit in the wake of injuries to Andre Agassi and Marcelo Rios.

The defection of either player would see Rusedski immediately drafted into the tournament, which remains at the round-robin stage. Although the Briton knew on his arrival five days ago that the prospects were encouraging, he was obliged to twiddle his thumbs for one more night. First Rios, humbled by Tim Henman on Wednesday, reported a favourable prognosis to the MRI scan on his injured back. He was scheduled, therefore, to play today against Agassi — even though the American retired from his match yesterday against Alex Corretja in the deciding set.

Agassi's retirement prompted Rusedski to abandon his computer game — presumably to head straight for the practice courts. However, Agassi, who promised initially a decision on his overall withdrawal late last night, decided to postpone that decision until this morning.

It seems absurd that a player can retire from a match without instigating his immediate withdrawal from the tournament. Yet rules are rules, leaving Rusedski with no option but to warm the substitutes' bench for another night. Corretja led 5-7, 6-3, 2-1 when Agassi drew stumps. "I'd be surprised if I played another match here," Agassi said later. "When I twisted, it

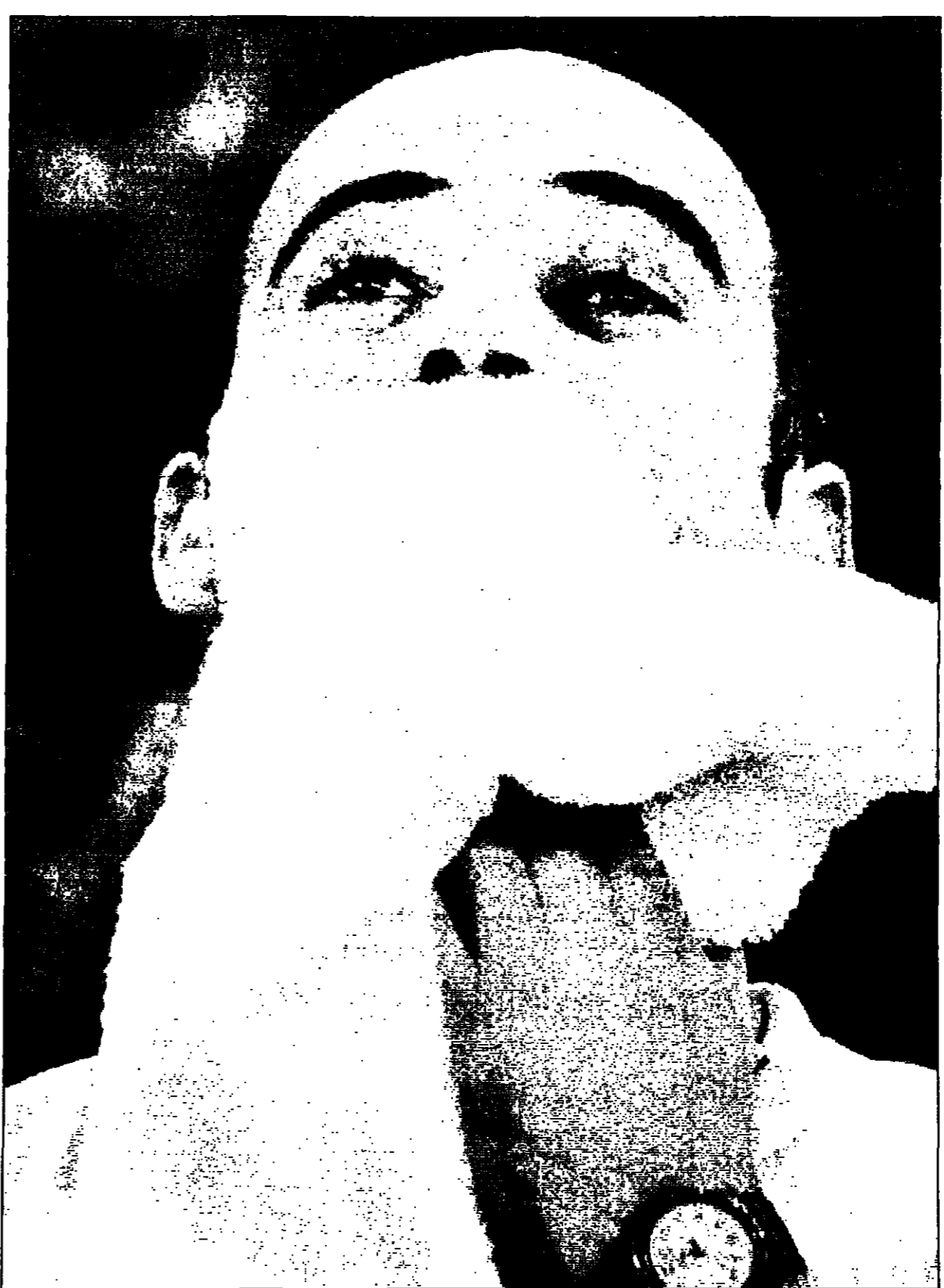
was just like somebody stuck a knife in me. Things became more difficult as the match progressed. It got quite pointless."

Given Agassi's sentiments, Rusedski must be likely to replace Agassi and turn out against Rios today. In that event, Rusedski would inherit Agassi's position in the white round-robin group — which, after the American's retirement, equates to a 6-0, 6-0 victory for Corretja. However, more intriguing than the prospect of Rusedski entering the fray is the collision that his late entry would provoke with Tim Henman tomorrow. That would be a

minimum, trigger an inquest among ATP Tour officials who stage this \$3.5 million (about £2.2 million) event. It should now be clear that the round-robin format, while interesting in theory, becomes seriously disfigured by withdrawals. Pat Rafter and Richard Krajicek withdrew four weeks ago. Rios claimed that injury had hampered his performance against Henman on Wednesday, and now Agassi looks likely to succumb. These developments required officials to reach for their telephones and alert further replacements for the eight-man field — Albert Costa and Jan Siemerink.

The list of stricken players all but mirrors events here a year ago, when the retirements of Rusedski and Sergi Bruguera prompted Henman's lucrative entrance from the national championships in Telford. Now Rusedski stands to benefit financially: his entry would guarantee him a minimum \$105,000 (about £60,000) and a possible jackpot of \$1.38 million if he triumphs overall.

On the court yesterday, Pete Sampras secured his semi-final place with another clinical victory — this time over Carlos Moya, of Spain. Sampras was more seriously tested by Moya than by Yevgeny Kafelnikov the previous day. Nevertheless, his 6-3, 6-3 victory was never in doubt. After Rios's defeat by Henman on Wednesday, Sampras looks poised to retain his status as world No 1. "Rios's loss helps," Sampras said, "but I'm also helping myself by winning my matches. I can't be too concerned about Marcelo, but I must admit that I was rooting for the Englishman on Wednesday night."



Agassi ponders his immediate future during his match with Corretja yesterday and may throw in the towel today

News are firmly in place

FA CUP

REVISED DRAW

SECOND ROUND: ...

### SAILING

## Calm sea adds to Briton's worries

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

WHERE are the trade winds? As seems so often the case in yacht racing, the expected meteorological pattern is never quite backed up by reality. The Route du Rhum monohulls could have expected a decent, downwind blast for the last 600 miles to Guadeloupe, but instead they are battling exhausting calms in the western Atlantic.

Ellen MacArthur, of Great Britain, in *Kingfisher*, is almost working her fingers to the bone as she completes a succession of sail changes and gybes in the lightest of airs. Over the past two days, however, she has held on to her ranking and is in fifth place overall in the monohull fleet, with around 630 miles still to sail.

The leader remains Thomas Coville, of France, in Yves Parlier's *Aquitaine Innovations*, who has about 350 miles to go, with an advantage of 100 miles over Jean Luc van den Heede, in *Algimouss*. Van den Heede, in turn, is only a mile or so ahead of Raphael Dinelli in his radical new 60, *Sodebo*. Then comes Jean Maurel in *Maison Cote Ouest*, who is 120 miles behind Dinelli, and 60 miles ahead of MacArthur.

The Briton has explained how the sub-zero windward conditions at the beginning of the race 18 days ago have taken their toll. "My hands are very sore and sting, strewn with salt sores and scabs," MacArthur said. "The early days of freezing wet hands and wrists have a lot to answer for, more likely encouraged now by sweat than waves."

The regime of sail changes continues through sleepless days and nights. "I gybed eight times last night and four times this morning. It's enough to drive you crazy. Each gybe takes 12 minutes now — I've been working on it. This may seem long for an inshore sailor, but think through all the moves."

### SPORTS POLITICS

## Banks demands changes at top

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE Government yesterday demanded that British sports bodies should appoint more women as leading officials. Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, said that he was not prepared to see any obstacles to females becoming top administrators in the new millennium. Asked what would happen if the governing bodies declined to act, he replied: "We would seek to discuss the issue with them. We have means to influence them." Ultimately, the Government could stop funding those organisations that refused to carry out its wishes.



Banks: call for unity

A survey is being conducted across British sport to discover the backgrounds of leading administrators. Banks, who yesterday addressed the annual conference of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, which represents the largely male-dominated officials of the national governing bodies, said: "I'm not prepared to tolerate any glass ceilings, not because I'm trying to be politically correct but because it is wasting resources. I want to see opportunities for women at all levels — as competitors, coaches or administrators."

On Tuesday, the Government announced that four of the six new members of the UK Sports Council would be women. They are Tanni Grey, the disabled Olympian, two international athletes, Professor Myra Nimmo and Zahara Hyde Phillips, and Di King, a leading administrator. Banks also urged Britain's sports bodies to set up a powerful political lobby to campaign on crucial issues. He contrasted the effectiveness of the arts in influencing government decisions. The minister said: "I know I'm making a rod for my own back, but we do need an active lobby to put pressure on the decision-makers."

He urged that there should be less fighting between the different umbrella organisations in British sport such as the CCPR and British Olympic Association, pointing to the fractured state of British sport "which amazes the rest of the world". This is partly because the minister has little real power, handing most of the decision-making over to the UK and four home sports councils. The announcement today of the setting up of a Confederation of British Sport, embracing most of the leading non-governmental organisations, will only rectify partially the chaos because the sports councils, which are quangos, will still not be directly under the control of the government.

## Packing a punch for the women

Meet Judith Rolleston, a solicitor who has created history at the British Boxing Board of Control

Jane Couch and Simone Lukic made boxing history last night, at Caesars nightclub in South London, with the first female professional bout in Britain. Outside the ring, women have been jabbing at the sport's hard-nosed inequality with similar determination. Tania Follett is licensed to work the corner. Alma Ingle and Katherine Morrison are promoters and last month, after distinguished service in the amateur ranks, Judith Rolleston, 42, was recognised by the sport's professional governing body. She is now an administrative steward, the first female official at the British Boxing Board of Control.

Given the board's recent, embarrassing battle — they were sued by Couch for sexual discrimination last summer and were forced to grant her the licence that she was being denied as well as £15,000 in compensation — Rolleston's appointment smacks of quick-witted political correctness. Not so, moreover, a glance at her CV, even through one half-closed eye, shows credentials fit to oversee what remains a male-dominated, much-criticised sport. Indeed, any claims that boxing is brutal, should be banned, or be out of bounds for women, are best whispered out of Rolleston's earshot. This Marlow-based solicitor, verbally at least, can sting like a bee. "Boxing is a contest of mental agility and skill," she said. "It is not a battle of the apes and I wouldn't have the sport described in those terms. There is not always blood and

snot all over the place. I never go to fights to see anyone injured. If there's a section of the community that enjoys that sort of thing, that's for their conscience."

There is no reason, she argues, why women should not box. "I have no problem with women boxing," she said. "Jane [Couch] is a wonderful example of what boxing can do. She has the most beautiful skin and energy just exudes from her. It would have been nice to help her to get a licence, but I'm not a litigator, I'm a non-contentious lawyer. I draft contracts for a living, so it's not my field. I wouldn't have wanted to risk my professional indemnity on that one."

She will happily risk, though, riling the British Medical Association (BMA). "When I was at the Amateur Boxing Association, we used to say that if the BMA actually came forward with substantial evidence, we would be more than happy to answer it."

### SARAH POTTER



involved, before they allowed women to box, I did a judges' course."

But all it is innuendo. It has to be put in context. How many people are injured on the rugby field? There are other sports which are much more dangerous.

Rolleston's interest was sparked when boxing was seldom battered by media and fighters commanded public respect, as much for their personalities as punching skills. "We were a sporting family," Rolleston said. "We watched all the major sports at a time when boxing was an accepted part of life. It was shown regularly on television on Saturday nights and the big fights were something you stayed in to watch. The country was behind the British boxers and, at the time, fighters like Henry Cooper were doing extremely well."

She would have liked to box herself. "Unfortunately, by the time I got involved, I was too old," she said. "But when the ABA relaxed their rules to allow women to become

### SPORT IN BRIEF

#### American lands run of triples

ICE SKATING: Sarah Hughes, 13, of the United States, landed six triple jumps in winning the second ladies' qualifying group at the world junior figure skating championships in Zagreb. Daria Timoshenko won a poor first group, which featured 22 falls in total, with a technically sound, but artistically dull performance. Jennifer Holmes, 14, of Britain, made errors on three jumps, finished 16th in her group and did not qualify for tomorrow's short programme.

BOWLS: David Bryant, 67, turned in a vintage display in the first round of the revived UK indoor singles championship at the Potters International Arena yesterday. The last winner of the event, when it was televised in 1989, Bryant beat Sandy Syme, the Scottish champion, 3-7, 7-5, 7-3. David Corkill beat Clive Benham in straight sets to reach the semi-finals, where he will meet Mervyn King, who defeated David Gourlay.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Sheffield Eagles have released two members of their Challenge Cup first-winning squad, Lynton Stott, a winger and one-time target for Gateshead Thunder, the Super League newcomers, and Martin Wood, a stand-off or loose forward, have been axed to enable the South Yorkshire club to trim their squad to 22, and meet salary-cap obligations.



Rolleston would like to have boxed herself and is a staunch defender of the sport

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Bourne runs across the plains under the burning African sun, and his next plan is to celebrate the millennium by running a round-the-world relay

# Bourne runs out of Africa

If you want to run the length of Africa — from the Cape to Cairo — all you need are 30 pairs of shoes, a lot of time, a little madness and unlimited persistence.

He has had stones thrown at him, stepped on snakes and been laid low by malaria, yet a former model is within sight of achieving his Cape-to-Cairo dream

Nicholas Bourne, a 28-year-old who at one time earned his living padding the catwalks of Europe and the United States as a professional model, has lived with the dream of conquering Africa on foot for the past three years.

The experts cautioned up to convince him that it was impossible. Plenty have tried and failed. He was warned that the diplomatic hurdles alone involved in crossing a continent churned up by war and famine would prove insurmountable.

Even if he could get anything remotely resembling a clear air at the continent, sports experts believed that the harsh conditions, the desert, the distance, the heat and the altitude would doom Bourne to failure.

In South Africa, Professor Tim Noakes, head of sports science at Cape Town University and author of *The Lore of Running*, feared that Bourne was taking on far too great a challenge. "You simply cannot run 45 miles a day for that length of time because you suffer so many injuries, especially in the kind of conditions they are going to meet in Africa," he said. "They are going to be running in summer temperatures often over 40 degrees centigrade, through very uncivilised areas where malaria and lots of other gut infections will strike them down. I would say it is impossible. The running will deplete their immune systems, and I think the whole thing is madness. I strongly urge them to call it off so they can plan better."

Mad he may be, but this morning finds Bourne in Egypt, running north close to the Red Sea coast, on his final 1,000 kilometres and heading for the pyramids. At last he is certain that his dream will come true, and that his persistence is paying off.

He has run in Egypt before. This is where it all started — or rather false-started. Just over a year ago, in October 1997, Bourne set out to run Africa with a friend, Chris Rainbow, a physical education teacher. After months of training in England, they were super-fit and their hopes high as they set out to run from north to south from Alexandria, determined to be in Cape Town within six months.

For the first couple of weeks, all went to schedule. They would be up at first light and

still running at sunset, resting in the heat of the day. Suddenly, however, they found themselves hobbled and then halted by red tape. The Egyptian military authorities simply would not let them run anywhere near the border with Sudan, and their journey seemed over almost before it had begun.

For weeks they ran around in circles, keeping fit but despairing of cutting their way through the paperwork. Money, time, enthusiasm and energy — all were running out, and their dream, always difficult, seemed impossible.

Then Bourne and his support party decided a move so simple and so bold that it, too, looked certain to be doomed. They shipped their expedition, complete with support vehicles, camping, cooking and

medical gear, to the other end of the continent, and announced that if they could not run from Cairo to the Cape, then they would simply turn around and do it from the Cape to Cairo.

They turned their original plan on its head, and on January 21 the expedition set out, heading north from Cape Town. Since then, Bourne has run nearly 6,000 miles, covering more than 40 miles a day through South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Most of this he has run solo, for Rainbow, his running companion, had to return to a teaching job, and eventually both his time and persistence ran out. So Bourne plodded on alone, accompanied by a support crew headed by his sister, Emma, while back in Britain Bourne's mother, May Grandy, demonstrated that persistence and stamina run in the family as she did endless laps of the embassies, lobbying for the necessary visas to get her son through.

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## Davis shows no signs of losing his motivation

After a professional career spanning 20 years, and incorporating 73 tournament wins, you could forgive Steve Davis if he had problems with motivation. In fact, the only difficulties encountered by the six-times world champion are those created by youthful opponents, many of whom are half his age.

Confirmation that Davis, 41, remains enthusiastic about the game in general, and winning in particular, was provided at a midnight press conference following his 9-7 victory over Marcus Campbell in the last 16 of the Liverpool-Victoria United Kingdom championship at Bournemouth.

tion, Davis has a valid argument. One such "kid" is Hunter, who defeated him en route to winning the Regal Welsh Open in January and, on Sunday, trounced Jimmy White 9-2 after losing the opening two frames.

John Parrott, 34, described by Davis as his leading challenger for the title of "the game's best old guy", trailed John Higgins, the world champion, 5-3 after a high-quality first session in their quarter-final yesterday.

Answers from page 51  
KUEI  
(a) A Chinese bronze food-vessel. The Chinese name. MUKTUK  
(c) The skin of any of several species of whales used for food by the Eskimos. An adaptation of the Eskimo maktak.  
NOMISMA  
(b) The bezzet or gold coin of the Byzantine Empire. The Greek word means money, from nomizein to use customarily.  
HAUSMALER  
(a) One who paints undecorated china in his own house or private workshop. The German word.  
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE  
1...Rax2 and if 2.Rax2 Qbi.

Higgins, attempting to record his seventh consecutive victory over Parrott, compiled breaks of 116 and 60, but his most significant contribution was the deftly-crafted 66 clearance, with which he snatched the closing frame of the afternoon.

## Holland in Hungary

**Beat Route**  
BBC2, 8.00pm (Scotland tomorrow, not Ireland)  
Jools Holland's new series is a mixture of travelogue and musical journey, delivered in his characteristically jaunty style. He begins in Budapest where his aims are to tell us about the history and character of the city and to track down some of its music making. Despite Holland's efforts to dress it up, his introduction to Budapest consists of little more than a few snippets picked up from a guide-book, and when he does let personal enthusiasm come through this is mainly to praise the Wartburg, which was built not in Hungary but the former East Germany. When he turns to music he is more enlightening, and his choice is eclectic enough to include a Transylvanian folk song rendered by a tenor saxophonist, a performance by a leading gypsy band and Zoltan Kodaly, one of Hungary's foremost classical pianists, playing Barok.



Emmelene McLaughlin, the UK's entrant in the Miss World competition (Ch 5, 9pm)

**Personal Services: What a Picture**  
Channel 4, 8.30pm  
John Pitman's unassuming little series about service providers continues with a profile of Ray Low, from Herefordshire. He is a family photographer, specialising in family portraits and weddings and we see him doing both. Driving a BMW with a personalised number plate ("I can't turn up in a tatty old van"), he reckons he is a bit of an artist and claims to have learnt his lighting technique from Rembrandt, no less. But his work also involves more practical considerations, such as hoping for good weather and co-operative subjects. He gets so nervous before weddings that he practises Tai-chi to reduce stress. Family groups can also be tricky; witness the Drapers, 17 of them plus dog. It is Wendy Draper's idea but her husband hates every minute.

young women in swimsuits. Except that under the new format swimsuits are out, and so are the stilts. Instead contestants will be seen wearing jeans and T-shirts. Whether this will be their attire when they swim and play volleyball the venue is the Seychelles is not clear. Nor will the women have to do those awful interviews in which they affect concern for needy children. Ronan Keating of Boyzone is the host and representing Britain is Emmelene McLaughlin.

**Miss World**  
Channel 5, 9.00pm  
So what is Channel 5's excuse for bringing back to mainstream television an event which was booted out a decade ago for being offensive to women? It could be that it is a cheap and easy way of delivering an audience, for even in these PC times there are still plenty of males ready to leer at pretty

**Science at War**  
BBC2, 9.25pm  
The series about the impact of science on 20th-century warfare reaches the summer of 1940 when Britain stood alone against a possible German invasion. That it never happened was attributed to the stirring deeds of the young RAF pilots in the Battle of Britain. This film focuses on a less publicised aspect. In a secret research establishment on the south coast a team of scientists, most of them amateurs, was trying to track the course of enemy aircraft. By sending out pulses of radio energy they were able to pick up echoes from planes more than 100 miles away. From this work emerged the cavity magnetron, a microwave radio transmitter small enough to fit inside fighter planes. The programme assesses the contribution of this and other scientific developments to the winning of the war.

### RADIO CHOICE

**Girls and Guitars**  
Radio 2, 10.00pm  
I am not sure all the female artists featured in this new series quite fit the description in tonight's programme — the new first ladies of North American music — but they are certainly among the leading lights in several music disciplines. Tonight the subject is Shawn Colvin, who started playing the guitar as a child, having taken over the instrument from her elder brother when he switched to classical violin. Colvin describes her background in Illinois as being full of music, both at home and at the local church, and her ability to play acoustic guitar as a teenager coincided with the rise of folk-rock stars such as Crosby, Stills and Young and Jonie Mitchell. Others in the series are Jewel, Meredith Brooks and Shania Twain

**Jazz Notes**  
Radio 3, 11.30pm  
Not the least useful aspect of this programme is that it helps to answer the question: whatever happened to him? In this case the subject is Dave Brubeck, one of the most important figures in modern jazz because he helped make jazz a respectable, middle-class music form: it was Brubeck who put a collar and tie into the music. Brubeck talks to Alyn Shipton about his career, in particular his rise to fame in the 1950s and 1960s, when Brubeck's experiments with time signatures produced one of the most unlikely hit singles of all time in *Take Five*. Brubeck's quartet, featuring the silky saxophone of Paul Gonsalves, became the most marketable outfit in jazz and Brubeck, 40 years after his first tour of Britain, is still on the road.

### RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening, includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 The Evening Show 11.00 Tracy Lynton 11.00pm Razzoo and Co 11.45 Andy Kerrow 12.00am Cyle Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

### BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 On the Shelf: One of Ours 7.30 Composer of the Month 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Performance 8.30 Radio 4 Justine 8.00 News (6.15, 8.15) 8.30 World Business Report 9.15 Wood, Gulls and Brass 9.30 Science Desk 9.45 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsweek 10.30 Discovery 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Record News 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News 12.05 Sports Round-Up 12.15 News Today 12.30 Waveguide 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newsround 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack X-Press 3.00 News (6.48 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Weather 3.25 News 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 News in French 3.50 News in Spanish 4.00 News in Chinese 4.15 News in Arabic 4.30 News in Russian 4.45 News in Portuguese 4.55 News in Italian 5.00 News in Hindi 5.05 News in Urdu 5.10 News in Bengali 5.15 News in Persian 5.20 News in Japanese 5.25 News in Korean 5.30 News in Vietnamese 5.35 News in Thai 5.40 News in Indonesian 5.45 News in Malay 5.50 News in 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to sell arm

David Cooker, who has been in the industry for 15 years, says that the sale was a major milestone for the group...

le on Net

Online services are booming. Analysts estimate that the U.S. online market will reach \$2.5 billion by the end of the year...

rowth

Home ownership is up. The number of new home sales in October rose 1.2 percent from the previous month...

inquiry

Consumer inquiries are on the rise. The Federal Trade Commission reports that complaints about telemarketing have increased...

listing

Real estate listings are active. The National Association of Realtors reports that new listings in October were up 3.5 percent...

umble

Unemployment remains a concern. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate in October was 6.7 percent...

dvance

Technology advances rapidly. The industry is seeing significant growth in software and hardware sales...

as sale

Stock market shows signs of recovery. Analysts predict a rebound in the coming months...

Accepted

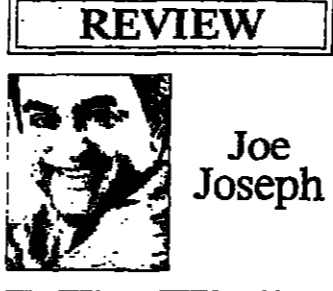
# Revealing programme, but is it too much?

Just when you were beginning to think that it's difficult for someone to grow old and gracefully... Lucy Blakstad's four-part series 'Naked' (BBC2) last night made a bee-line for the body of Mike, Mike, like Stringfellow...

Mike - who sports a long grey ponytail, even though there is no obvious evidence that any of these hairs are rooted on the front of his scalp - has decided not to give in to age and graying... Joe Joseph

Women In The Wild. Britain's only all-female bikers club, which was the subject of Behind Closed Doors (BBC2). These women - aged between their early twenties and 48 - don't hide behind a pair of Calvin Kleins...

thing you'd hear Becky Sharp saying. But what would a modern Becky be getting up to if Thackeray were writing Vanity Fair today? Andrew Davies, who wrote the script for the BBC's current adaptation, told Omnibus (BBC1) that 'it would certainly centre on London'...



Joe Joseph

## BBC2

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (28423)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (136837)
9.00 Killy (1) (822395)
9.40 Style Challenge (905910)
10.05 City Hospital (1) (919342)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (1) (953637)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher (963084)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (996617)
11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (1) (821486)
12.00pm Posing as the Buck (459488)
12.25 Going for a Song (450686)
12.50 The Weather Show (1) (6766362)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (1) (8954)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (73928442)
1.40 Neighbours Dur searches for a girlfriend (1) (67545959)
2.05 Snooker: UK Championship Live coverage from the quarter-finals at the Bournemouth International Centre (9587317)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6654626)
3.45 Fireman Sam (9130220)
3.55 Rugrats (2075220)
4.20 M. W. Wyma (4593775)
4.25 Smart (437379)
5.00 Newsround (4168249)
5.10 Byker Grove (5473048)
5.35 Neighbours Dur searches for a girlfriend (1) (67545959)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (959)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (539)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show, putting some of the biggest names on the high street under the spotlight (1) (2133)
7.30 EastEnders Grant and Louise are thrown together (1) (423)
8.00 Animal Hospital The vets help a lone swan brought crashing to earth by stormy weather, and a debilitated guinea comes in for an eye operation (1) (1881)
8.30 Molly's Zoo Profile of Molly Badham, who founded Twycross Zoo in Warwickshire, one of the world's most respected primate zoos (1) (7688)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (8210)
9.30 dinnerladies Bren's supposed mother causes chaos in the factory and incurs Stan's wrath by pursuing an ill-considered romance, while Anita organises a heated debate (1) (30510)
10.00 They Think It's All Over Nick Hancock and the regulars are joined by Jonathan Ross and the American comedian, Vic Harley (1) (92862)
10.30 Clive Anderson All Talk Celebrity interviews (19210)
11.00 Question Time From Newcastle. With Chris Tarrant, Ian Sykes, leader of the Democracy Movement, Nigel Lawson and Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Social Security (1) (203084)
12.05am Desperate Justice (1) (993)
Harrowing legal drama, starring Lesley Anne Warren as a woman who swears revenge on the man wrongly acquitted of attacking her daughter. With Bruce Davison (1) (45114)
1.30 Weather (1) (927008)
1.35 BBC News 24 (73308602)

## BBC1

- 7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: The Adventures of the Garden Fairies (5371220)
7.05 Teletubbies (2182862)
7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids (2984201)
7.55 Blue Peter (529591)
8.20 Robinson Succo (9686336)
8.45 Six So Soes (691442)
8.55 The Adventures of the Garden Fairies (5080713)
9.00 Job Bank (7196688)
9.10 Belle (5578662)
9.30 Walch (8133881)
9.45 Come Outside (8133336)
10.00 Teletubbies (68978)
10.30 Six So Soes (691442)
10.45 Experiment (9592201)
11.05 Space Ace (9136881)
11.15 Zig Zag (9409059)
11.35 Lifeschool (816591)
12.00 Job Bank (331242)
12.10pm English File (3794336)
12.30 Working Lunch (25688)
1.00 Just So Stories (9685997)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (2346084)
1.20 Wildlife on Two (1) (1) (70463794)
2.35 News; Weather (1) (772749)
2.40 Westminster with Diana Madiell Parliamentary news (1) (5637688)
3.20 News; Weather (1) (7411268)
3.25 Snooker: UK Championship Further live action (31589713)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Wolf is enlisted on a mission for the Klingon Empire (1) (756713)
6.45 Snooker: UK Championship (569143)
7.30 First Sight Nicky Campbell reports on new legislation designed to give the police greater powers in dealing with known paedophiles living in the community (715)
8.00 CHOICE Joole's Best Routes Joole's Holland explores music abroad, starting with a trip to the heart of Eastern Europe, Budapest (1) (9423)
8.30 Top Gear Steve Berry offers his views on Jeep's new Grand Cherokee, while Vicky Butler-Henderson has fun testing the Tommy Kaira ZZ sports car (1) (9530)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Dick Overreals to rumours that some humans think his family is a little weird, and attempts to normalise them (1) (857591)
9.25 CHOICE Science at War Insight into the development of radar (1) (711442)
10.15 Winners' Tales with Jancis Robinson One of the country's oldest wine merchants (1) (516866)
10.26 Video Nation Shorts (1) (223065)
10.30 Newsnight (1) (937249)
11.15 Snooker: UK Championship Highlights of this evening's frames (621338)
11.55 Holiday Weather (231572)
12.00 Dispatch Box (86468)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: The Leisure Site 12.45 Wembley Stadium: Venue of Legends 1.30 What's Body? 1.50 Open Later: Maths 2.00 Working in Children 4.00 Teaching Film and Media 4.30 But is it Any Good - Evaluating Film 5.00 Teacher Training 5.45 OU: Putting Training to Work 6.10 Rocks for Roads

## HTV

- 5.30am ITN Morning News (65442)
6.00 GMTV (963171)
9.25 Trisha (1) (6872648)
10.15 This Morning (1) (500268)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (1) (3395775)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (1) (4442)
1.00 Shortland Street (93152)
1.30 Home and Away (1) (44713)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (6794387)
2.40 Supermarket Sweep (1) (2994825)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (1) (7402510)
3.15 HTV News (1) (740181)
3.20 CITY Wizzards (7483046)
3.30 Kipper (7873933)
3.45 Paddington Bear (8132888)
3.55 Cow and Chicken (2086336)
4.15 Hey Arnold! (851249)
4.40 The Worst Week (972297)
5.10 A Country Practice (4367152)
5.30 HTV Crimestoppers (833930)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) (373572)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (135442)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (1) (904423)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (833607)
6.30 The West Tonight (1) (607)

## CENTRAL

- As HTV West except 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather (1) (9632336)
1.00 Echo Point (93152)
1.30 Jerry Springer (1) (9429330)
2.10-2.40 Home and Away (1) (4524033)
3.15-3.20 Central News (1) (740181)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4367152)
6.25-6.55 Central News; Weather (1) (110133)
6.55-7.00 Lifetime (1) (435248)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (1) (672189)
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10.40-12.45 Party in the Park (1) (172775)
1.00am Pirate TV (47) (8861447)
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CRICKET 48

Stewart's technique comes under renewed scrutiny in Australia

SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26 1998

RUGBY UNION 51

England recall Rodber to lock scrum against Australia



Return to Scotland colours may follow move to Newcastle
Ferguson enjoys fresh start

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

THE detente extended to smiles and handshakes. The frosty glare previously reserved for defenders, journalists and Scottish football officials was replaced with happy words of conciliation.

That British football's most enduring cold war should result in such an amicable truce was remarkable in itself. It was Ferguson's decision to present himself on an impromptu stage inside St James' Park before the media pack he has routinely shunned, a precedent only superseded by the olive branch he offered to the Scotland team from which he prematurely took his leave last year.

"At the moment, Newcastle are the closest thing in my thoughts, but in the future it could be Scotland. We'll have to wait and see," the striker said. He won the last of his seven caps in a 2-0 defeat of Estonia in March last year before taking a stand against the Scottish Football Association (SFA) and the 12-match suspension they dispensed in the aftermath of the pivotal moment of a tempestuous career.

It was in 1995 that Ferguson, then at Rangers, was sentenced to a three-month jail term for his part in an on-field head-butting incident involving John McStay, of Raith Rovers. However, it was the treatment meted out by the SFA - he described it as a "witch-hunt" - that provoked his decision to forsake his country.

Sitting alongside Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, and Freddy Shepherd, the chairman, those dark days were all but forgotten yesterday. Ferguson talked of his sorrow at leaving behind a set of supporters who quickly elevated him to superstar status when he left Ibrox for Goodison Park four years ago, and his anticipation at forming a potent striking partnership with Alan Shearer.

Whether that can be maintained as a long-term ambi-



Ferguson stands head and shoulders above his new colleagues as he takes part in his first training session with Newcastle United yesterday

tion is uncertain. While Ferguson insisted that he was "really looking forward to teaming up" with the England captain, reports linking Shearer with Barcelona and Juventus were once more emerging. Gullit, though, is preparing to play them in tandem.

He will also be pressing his first Newcastle signing, who chose to get married rather than play in the World Cup last summer, to reopen a channel of communication with Craig Brown, the Scotland manager. "I would like him to play for Scotland again," Gullit said. "I think it's good for every player's career to play for his country. Duncan had some difficulties, but I think they can be overcome."

"Firstly, he has to play for us, and we're going to do everything we can to get everything possible out of his talent. He

can make whatever decision he wants to make. I'm not going to do anything to force him."

Gullit revealed that the long-standing admiration he has held for Ferguson stretched back to his managerial tenure at Stamford Bridge. "When I was at Chelsea, we were thinking of him," he said. "He was in the picture then." Five years

Liverpool found lacking.....52
Kidd on shortlist.....52
Evers excels in Italy.....52

earlier, then managed by Kevin Keegan, Newcastle had also inquired of the player's availability. On that occasion, Dundee United, Ferguson's first club, rejected their advances.

Of his hasty departure from Merseyside, Ferguson was particularly enlightening, casting doubt on the assertion of Walter Smith, the Everton manager, that he knew little concerning his team captain's impending departure. "Walter

Smith spoke to me on Monday morning and told me the club were inviting offers for me," Ferguson said. "That's when I knew the club were putting me up for sale."

"I was surprised that they were prepared to let me go considering the position they are in the league, but that is their agenda. Once I realised Newcastle were interested in me, it was an easy decision."

"I had a great relationship with the Everton fans and they know that I'll miss them. Part of me will always be at Goodison. But my future is at Newcastle now. I'm looking forward to it."

Complete with his Everton tattoos - "Maybe I'll get a Newcastle one if I'm here long enough" - his prized racing pigeons ("I'll have to drive them up in the car"), his estimated £40,000-a-week wages and the No 20 shirt that now becomes his own, a misundersigned player who, in Gullit's words, has "so-called 'balls'," prepares for a new beginning. Yesterday, at least, was a promising start.



Shearer seems unconcerned by the fuss over the arrival of his £8 million striking partner. Photographs: Raoul Dixon

Poet proves well-versed in one-liners

Simon Barnes on an unusual winner of William Hill Sports Book of the Year

There's no doubt about it - Angry White Pyjamas is a great title. They would have been forced to give the author the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award even if the book was hopeless. But it isn't. It's a very decent book.

There is, however, an eerie feeling about the shortlist this year. This is because it included two ghosts. The ghost-written autobiography is a sports-dominant literary form, and yet you hardly ever see a ghost on the list, let alone two. This is not so much snobbery as the fact that most autobiographies are not so much ghostly as ghostly, trapped between vanity and greed.

However, this year brought us Addicted by Tony Adams with Ian Ridley, and Behind the White Ball by Jimmy White with Rosemary Kingland. Both of these are great tales well told.

When I heard that Adams had teamed up with the excellent Ridley, I knew this would be done right. Adams's story of his twin addictions to football and alcohol is gripping and, at times, painful. It is that rare thing, an honest ghosted book: Adams is a man who needs to tell us as it is.

He is a figure of strength and leadership. His method of dealing with the stresses of this role was binge drinking. He quotes football's great motto: "Win or lose, on the booze". The striking juxtaposition of strength and vulnerability makes this an important book for those who follow sport.

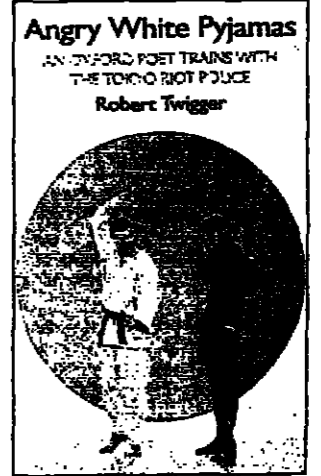
The Jimmy White book is quite different: a glorious piece of escapism. White is a disastrous individual without an unkind corpse in his bloodstream. True, if he goes out for a pack of fags he might not be back for six weeks, but he doesn't mean any harm by that. "I never mean to let people down - it just sort of happens, know what I mean?"

If you sometimes wonder if all the phrases are authentic Jimmy - I can't seriously imagine him talking about the sword of Damocles - the book is none the worse for that. These two books give the ghost a good name.

The dominant, as it were, "literary" literary form in sport is, at present, the post-Hornby personal account of what sport means to me, the ordinary if aware and sensitive person. The other four books on this shortlist are all of this persuasion.

The winner is subtitled "An Oxford poet trains with the Tokyo riot police". Robert Twigger, the author, won the Newdigate prize for poetry in 1985. This is a tale of a foreigner going through some rather rigorous martial arts training. He has had some unusual experiences, and he tells the story very readably.

The trouble with these personal tales as a literary form is that there are far too many characters, and you keep forgetting which is which. This is

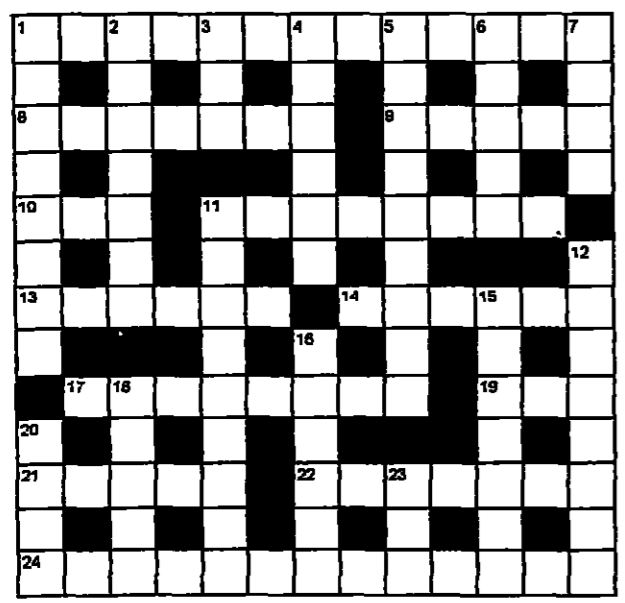


one of the reasons why novels are truer than all autobiographies, ghost or no ghost. David Hopps's splendid We're Right Behind You, Captain interweaves the tale of Mike Atherton's captaincy of England with his own leadership of his village cricket team. Hopps is a great observer and he brings off some nice juxtaposition.

The other books are Colin Shindler's Manchester United Ruined My Life, nicely turned but un peu trop Hornby, and Donald McRae's Changing Seasons in World Rugby, with 100,000 words and more of white-liberal South African angst.

Twigger failed to collect his prize. He was "in the jungle looking for snakes". Good at one-liners, this man.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1573

- ACROSS: 1 Zambesi cascade (8,5), 8 Summarise: coral (5,2), 9 Solar System occasional visitor (5), 10 Hazelnut; a horse (3), 11 Capital of Sardinia (8), 13 Inter-state pact (6), 14 Occurring intermittently (6), 17 Liquid slopped (8), 19 Unprocessed (3), 21 Surrounded by (5), 22 Appalling action (7), 24 Rudely challenged decision (6,3,4). DOWN: 1 Ravenousness (8), 2 Fall apart: pudding (topping) (7), 3 Unusual (3), 4 Call into question (6), 5 Exact copy (9), 6 Madagascar tree-dweller (5), 7 Paving block: burrow (4), 11 Perfect list (9), 12 Perfect (eg diamond) (8), 15 A mishmash (7), 16 To caper: frolic (6), 18 Pointed end of fork (5), 20 Celebration, festival (4), 23 Fastest: equal outcome (3)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1572: ACROSS: 1 Feckless, 7 Bathe, 8 Committal, 9 Kir, 10 Trim, 11 Remove, 13 Lonely, 14 Hearts, 17 Batter, 18 Stab, 20 Fir, 22 Negligent, 23 Elliot, 24 Heighden. DOWN: 1 Facet, 2 Campion, 3 Lair, 4 Sitter, 5 Stake, 6 Depress, 7 Bloomer, 12 Blatant, 13 Leaflet, 15 Retreat, 16 Meagre, 17 Braid, 19 Balon, 21 King

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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